

Demon Girl ~Tale of a Lax Demon~

Book 3 - Beast's Bride
by Day Of Spring

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Chapter 0: Dark Prayer

The country was falling apart. The earth as well. The sky as well. Even people's hearts...

This barren land was unfit for human habitation; because of that, the rulers of each country declared it [Forbidden Territory], sending a large amount of [Human Personnel] under the guise of [Pioneering].

Criminals and people who were arrested under the [Pretext] of minor crimes were sent there, but the ones who were sent most were those with mixed blood between different races.

People with deformities. People with the appearance of a beast or who had scaly skin. People with horns coming from their forehead or with reptilian eyes.

Even though they inherited features from their [Non-human] ancestry, at least one of their parents was human. Most of them had a human's feelings.

Regardless, the humans who were disgusted by them gathered them up and drove them into the remote area.

In order to live in this barren land, they killed, stole from, and violated their [Comrades]. As their mixed bloods mixed ever more, they became a new race.

Black skin, black hair, silver eyes... they came to be known as the [Daemons]

They, who had inherited the blood of the non-human races, had stronger magical power than humans. Living in the barren wastelands as they were, they had forgotten how to empathize with others, doing nothing but quarrel with each other. The blood which fell from their battles polluted the land with resentment to the point that the rising negativity even reached the sky, blocking out the sun, devastating the earth further.

Looking out at that country from an aging castle, a man gave out a slight sigh.

{This country has reached its limit.....}

The strong oppressed the weak, and the weak took it as natural and accepted being oppressed.

The strong people also took it for granted, and believed that the country would become stronger if the weak people were gone.

The way things were going, within a few hundred years, the daemon race would weaken and fall into ruin.

The man diverted his eyes from the stormy town and walked through the corridors of the royal castle.

{... A strong power is needed.}

It would be impossible to change the mindsets of the Daemon race. It was impossible to teach the daemons, who only knew of robbing, to think of not robbing others as normal.

There was no choice but brute force.

There would have to be a mighty [Power] to force both the strong and weak people to obey.

At the underground altar the man went to, there was a huge summoning formation in place.

The size alone was several times the size used in the demon summoning case, and hundreds of daemons had been dedicating their magic power to it for a decade.

{But, it's still not enough...}

If it were only normal summoning, several years of magic would have been enough.

Of the [Greater Demons] that had appeared a long time ago, it was said that there were three of the [Master Class]...

If one were to be summoned, no amount of preparations would give one peace of mind.

If even a tiny mistake was made, it would spell the day of extinction for the Daemons.

"Is the progress going smoothly?"

When the man spoke to the daemons working to pour magical power into the

summoning formation, the large warlord looking daemon who was overseeing the operation kneeled in front of the man.

“Currently, we’re at about 80% of the maximum prescribed amount... If we were to call even an Archdemon class with the current magic amount accumulated, we could call four or five of them.”

“..... I see.”

He understood what the warlord wanted to say.

Rather than relying on the presence of some legendary class that was unknown, it would be easier to handle an Archdemon who could do huge damage to a human nation just by being unleashed.

He was able to do this delicate work because of his high intelligence, but as a warrior he would be able to match blades with the [Hero] who would come if they released an Archdemon.

However, it would be useless.

Destroying and stealing from humans would only postpone the problem of them only knowing how to deprive others.

“.....”

The man was tired.

He had thrown away the notion that the daemons would be able to stay calm if they took the territory of the humans, for they would surely fight each other to become rich.

The man had given up hope for the daemons alone.

“Keep working. No change in the plan.”

When the man sharply spoke those words, he poured out his magic power, said to be the most powerful amongst the Daemons, into the summoning formation.

This desperate behavior caused the warlords, who had watched over him since childhood, to look down upon him with lonesome eyes, as they renewed their determination to follow him.

"Even if it takes my life... Daemon Lord"

The daemons have no god. The strongest existence among the daemons, the [Daemon Lord] is their god, and there was no stronger person.

Still, the warlord dared to pray.

He prayed from the bottom of his heart to the [Demon] that would grant his wish.

Before he knew it, his heart gradually calmed down...

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At that time, a certain [Demon] was pouring a stupidly huge amount of magical power into the general-purpose summoning circle in the academy, and somehow broke it, managing to summon a massive amount of [Seaweed] at the same time. Since then, she has been racking her brains daily over how to make use of the seaweed, even as she dried it with her attendants.

Chapter 1: I Became a First-Year Student ①

A half-waning moon floated in the bowl of the starry night sky.

That night in the garden, surrounded by roses, a small wax candle was lit up upon a table. The person sitting next to it wore an indescribable expression.

The rest of the people there didn't seem to mind such a trivial thing.

The sounds of someone lazily pouring tea, the sounds of the teacups filling up, and the sounds of breathing were all that could be heard... it was a quiet and enjoyable tea party for everyone.

Well... everyone other than me.

"Yurushia-sama, would you please stop clinking the cups."

The silver-haired beauty, Millaine, suddenly cried out and stood up from her seat.

"But it's dark."

My eyesight in darkness isn't much different than a normal human being.

Although my eyes don't get tired and my vision doesn't worsen and I can see magic and read faraway characters, something like night vision isn't part of my Demonic powers.

I've been worried about dry eyes, recently.

Clack. I put my cup down, but since it was dark, I accidentally knocked a plate flying, the maid demon, Tina, caught it immediately, returning it to its position under the cup as if nothing had happened.

"How unrefined... Are you even an Aristocrat?! Are you even a Demon!?"

"Ehhhh... even if such a dreamy girl tells me that..."

It seems that Millaine is holding on to an idealized belief about how nobles should behave.

What a serious child.

I'm a bit worried that the girl was drunk on the idea that Demons would say things like 'In the world of Darkness'... Seriously.

All of a sudden, I felt like saying [My right eye is throbbing] (read: Chuunibyou reference)

Since that night, Millaine and I have been holding regular [Moonlit Tea Parties].

There were no human participants. That is, this was a tea party for the [Non-Humans] that lived in the Holy Kingdom.

By the way, even with their reduced numbers, Millaine had her maids in attendance. I also brought my attendants along. Those children devoted themselves earnestly as my attendants, melting away into the darkness, so it's hard to tell if they're actually here.

"You seem grumpy. You should eat more minerals. Would you like some wakame seaweed?"

"No thank you."

Yeah, I really don't want it either. I just really needed to get rid of the stuff since there is so much of it.

Even though I'm distributing it to the [Society for Turning Brightness to Darkness]'s members for free, the positive responses were few. It smelled strange to them.

"That seaweed? Yurushia-sama sent one wagon's worth of the dried stuff, but I suffered when my stomach swelled after the meal, not to mention it tasting horrible..."

"....."

Did you actually eat it? Despite being a vampire?

My four attendants behind me also look surprised... Hey, Fannie? Your face became a Harlequin mask, it's not good to laugh at that, you know...?

What a low amount of common sense, for a demon.

Really, Millaine-chan is quite dangerous. That child is too straightforward and

adorable.

“Besides, no matter how good the tea is.....”

“Well..... that is true.”

With my words, Millaine sat down angrily.

She understood, after all. Both demons and vampires don't feel that human food is tasty.

Vampires like Millaine haven't even noticed why.

“By the way, Millaine ... I'd like you to try this.”

“Wha-, what... ”

Because of her terrible experience with the dried seaweed, Millaine drew away a little. Don't give me those eyes..... I didn't think that you would eat them.

“There isn't a need to be so on guard... Noa.”

“Understood.”

As I called his name, the butler demon Noa bowed gently, and placed a newly-prepared cup of tea in front of Millaine.

“...This, is this just normal tea?”

Millaine is correct, but there's more to it than that.

Noa took out something that looked like white haze, and, squeezing it like a fruit, several drops of something dripped into the tea.

“Millaine-sama, please try it.”

“.....”

Millaine narrowed her eyebrows in suspicion.

Well, go on, go on. Although it was obviously suspicious, as she understood how [Strong] Noa was, she knew it wasn't possible to refuse his suggestion. She accepted with a [Smile] and a “-Sama.”

Millaine timidly, put the cup to her mouth.....

“..... !?!”

The [Flavor] made her eyes open wide, and I could see my reflection in those beautiful purple eyes.

“How do you like it, Millaine? The taste of a high quality [Soul].....”

Finally, with the help of my four followers, I am at last able to improve my [Eating habits].

To get rid of the likes and dislikes in the souls, we used the wisdom of ancient cooks and chose to mix them up.

Thanks to his [Unleashing] ability, Noa has made great contributions to producing this exquisite taste.

“Soul...? This? Really...”

She might have remembered the taste. Millaine was surprised at the [Soul-tasting tea], quickly gulping it down, setting aside her noble behavior.

“... Do you have any more?”

Millaine seems to have liked it quite a lot.

But...

“I’m sorry, Millaine. At the moment, I can’t easily give away a soul with [Karma] as deep as this [Traitorous 40-year-old Priest].”

In his youth, this pitiful man had no money to hire a healer to save his younger sister, who died from illness. As a result of his deep affection for her, he resented the church, and tried to drag innocent believers into his multiple-decade revenge plot on the church...

“When Fannie was taking a night stroll, she came across this present and took a slice of it.”

“Ehehehe”

When I patted her on the head and praised her, Fannie looked innocently happy.

Besides the Harlequin mask...

"Is that so ..."

As Millaine gave a dejected expression, I jumped into the main topic for the night.

"Um, as I was saying, you should come take a stroll with me tonight, Millaine."

"...Eh?"

A purpose of tonight's tea party was to try to teach the vampires the taste of [Souls] and also to [Feed the Animals].

The other purpose was to have Millaine and her [Underlings] manage some of the [Underground Community] in the Holy Kingdom.

I smiled sweetly at her with a Demonic smile, and grasped her hands as I unfurled my wings.

"After this, we'll teach you how to differentiate between the deliciousness of [Souls]."

* * *

Although we moved to the Royal capital for the sake of going to school, there's been practically no change to our lives.

I get to have Shelly's fluffy sweetness during reading lessons and I was forced to have etiquette lessons with Betty. It seems my opportunities to play with them have increased.

And now we come to the problem, which is the talk going around the Magic Academy.

I expected there to be [Issues] from my performance during the opening ceremony, but underestimated them.

I'd enter the school, at first being drawn in and having my perspectives broadened, I'd become friends with my classmates, even if there were only a few, we would help each other in our studies, exchange side dishes from our boxed lunches, stray off into a forbidden flower garden where only upperclassmen could enter, spy on our elders, be helped by an attractive school council president after being persistently bullied...

I used to have those sorts of delusions daily.

Let me show you the reality.

Zawa...

Even though there are a lot of aristocrats at the school in the Royal Capital, they're still children. Rather, due to the self-indulgent upbringing of many of these noble children, the unthinkably luxurious cafeteria in the school campus was very noisy. Suddenly, a commotion happened, and hundreds of people fell so silent that you could hear a pin drop.

But... I just showed up.

Katsun...

“... Tch”

In the middle of that silence, a commoner girl a little in front of me dropped her spoon, unable to take the tension, and it rolled in front of my feet.

The nearby girl and the students around her instantly turned pale.

“.....”

In that frozen atmosphere, Nia, who wore a weak smile, and Tina, who was perfectly expressionless, went out quietly ahead of me and gave the girl a quiet look.

The girl's face passed through blue and went ghastly pale, trembling while visibly.

Upon seeing it, Nia leaked out a dangerous presence, and in the silence where one could hear a pin drop, Tina murmured “...Termite...” under her breath.

“.....”

Ah, not good. This no-good servant.

Why did they become like this? Yep, it's my fault.

Although all students are supposed to be treated as equal, regardless of whether they are nobles or commoners, a girl who was cherished by the Royal Family, with the wealth and power of a Ducal house, who was the [Princess], the [Face] of diplomatic relations for the Holy Kingdom, who displayed the

power of a [Saint], and was treated by church officials like a tumor; if I was a normal girl, I'd never approach them either.

Now, what attitude should I be taking here...?

Option one. Riding on the flow of the mood, I ignore the girl and move on.

Actually, this would be the least harmful thing to do. The [Evil Ojou-sama] route is a straight ahead.

Option two. I pick up the spoon and hand it to her.

Although it sounds good, to put it bluntly it's just self-satisfaction. If I get careless both she and [I] will be judged by the surrounding people.

Option three. Leave no witnesses. Although this would be the easiest to do, it's a poor choice overall.

The result: The first option... Well, whatever. Properly thinking about it, things shouldn't change too much.

It's necessary for me to behave [Like a Human] for the sake of my peaceful life. After all, an inconspicuous life is for the best, really.

That being the case, when I tried to pass right by in my [Prickly (TL: Tsun)] Duke Daughter mode, I felt the release of a little Demonic magic from Nia, who was eagerly playing the role of a rough-mannered guard.

"Tei!"

I instinctively did a hand-chop to the back of Nia's head, and she hits the floor.

Again, the dining hall became painfully quiet.

I've done it again.

A large shock wave moved through the air from the swing, if I acknowledged it, it'd be my loss.

Still, Nia is sturdy. Despite me having loaded enough magical power to shatter the thin bedrock, Nia lightened the blow considerably with [Absorption]. She looked up at me and sulked while rubbing the back of her neck.

"Sorry for the commotion."

Saying that before anyone else could play the straight man and correct me, I hurried to the back of the dining hall.

My daily school life went on like that.

Let's pray to not enter a suspicious [Route].

Chapter 2: I Became a First-Year Student ②

Yurushia was in the Magic Academy... to be more specific, in the luxury suites for elite students at the Magic Academy's Royal Capital campus, the salons.

To say nothing of normal students, even teachers can't enter the salons without permission. Only those directly connected to the Royal Family can enter, along with other royals and those from upper-class noble families. Although Betty, who's from a Marquis' family, is allowed to use it, Shelly, who is from the house of Earl Oraleine, only just barely made the cut. It's that kind of up-tight place.

"Yuru-sama, say 'Ah-n.'"

"A-Ah-n..."

Because I was unable to use the normal cafeteria due to certain circumstances, I had my food delivered to the salon and have been having my meals there.

A side note, it's actually completely okay for my four attendants (Demons) and I if we don't eat, but Shelly and Betty were worried about me and came over to eat with me.

Right now, I'm currently having a meal with Shelly.

If you want to know why... I don't know. You should tell me.

"Yu-Yuru is amazing. Everyone knows how gentle of a child you are, Yuru."

Gentle child...? What did you see of me to make you think that?

While Betty was saying that kind of thing and I was [Aah~]ing, the goth looking young lady with black hair and a tidy look grabbed the husk of a lobster-like shellfish and pointed it at my mouth... What should I do?

But, I'd be lying if I said I wasn't having fun. Having lunch with the three of us in identical uniforms was a scenario I had long yearned for in the dream world.

The uniforms aren't too different, either. It has a big ribbon tie and an indigo blue two-piece with a skirt, my first time wearing one, and short enough that

my calves could be seen.

While Shelly was her usual self, Betty was fidgety and couldn't calm down. If someone asked me why, I'd say that it would be because there was someone watching the three of us with an amused look.

"You all seem to be good friends, yeah?"

Timothy-kun, 17 years old. The first imperial grandchild of the Holy Kingdom Taterudo. Or as he is commonly referred to as: [Prince-sama].

As ever, there was a giant fluffy aura around him.

Even though he's such a disappointing prince he's a pretty boy with rosy cheeks like Elea-sama's... no, wait, he's older, so because his appearance could be said to be that of a pretty young man (TL: Bishounen), it's a feast for the eyes.

"Ti— Timothy-sama, here, would you like to have tea too?"

I know how you feel, but calm down, Betty.

Members of the Royal Family would normally get engaged at the age of 15 and then marry at around 20 years old. And yet, despite Timothy-kun being 17 years old, he doesn't have an engagement yet, and there haven't been any rumors going about, either.

Well thanks to that, all the older girls were in a tizzy. He's filled with fluffiness, though.

While it's all well and good to desire the Prince-sama, there were all sorts of fairy tales spoken of by the commoner girls that the Prince would fall in love with at first sight and they would eventually become Queen, though, given the minimum standing that a family must have to use this salon, where Betty who is 10 this year is just barely within the range of being a contender, it can't be helped that she would be considering it.

Even though he's only filled with fluffiness.

"Mm-hmm. Am I welcome?"

Without a single change to his comfortable tone, Timothy-kun came over to our table.

Other than that rule for using the salon, in the past, there was a noble who brought scores of maids along with them in the past to attend a tea party. Since then, the salon has been barred to attendants, and it has been arranged that students will brew their own tea. For me, who is naturally clumsy, it has been decided that Shelly will help me brew the tea instead.

“Thank you, it’s delicious.”

“It’s nothing. It’s thanks to Yuru-sama that I have this opportunity.”

Hey, hey, Shelly... Even as a joke, there’s a prince of the country here, stop making such neglectful remarks happily.

By the way, Betty can’t brew her own tea for the same reason as me.

“Ahaha, that’s why we love you, Yurushia.”

I don’t mind Timothy-kun, either. I worried about the future of this country for a moment, perhaps he’s grown up?

“Umm... Timothy-onii-sama, pardon me, come and join in...”

I ran my mouth off without thinking and changed the topic.

After all, that “Kyahaha” and “Ufufu” atmosphere is something that he doesn’t understand.

“Yurushia is like a younger sister to me, but it’s quite strange. When I went to the dining room, it seemed that everyone was less tense?”

“ “...tch” ”

At Timothy-kun’s remark, Shelly and Betty put on delicate smiles and stared at me.

... I seem to be feared.

Given such a thing, no matter which child he keeps company, Timothy’s better be searching for a queen candidate quickly... while I thought of such rude things with a smile, Timothy-kun replied to me.

“Anyways. The people in the castle have been telling stories about Yurushia. Isn’t that strange?”

“Yes, Timothy-nii-sama, it is strange.”

I said that while meeting his fluffy smile with a smile of my own.

I don't know why, but it seems he was told to come here.

Shelly's eyebrow jumped up with a *pikun* instantly. From outside the salon, Tina's anger leaked out slightly, but I didn't worry as it wasn't the first time they'd had such eccentric behaviors.

Those people in the castle, even if I said that I would introduce those girls to Timothy-kun because they wanted to, although he would become scared of me, the healing effect from him would still be enough.

With Timothy-kun having such feelings, the fluffy smile ended as we looked at one another.

But the real problem is his younger brother, fourth grade brat Rick.

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My four samurai aren't always around me.

The children who didn't pass the magic power test, when I was in classes they were to accompany me at all times instead of attending their ordinary schools. What a lack of human rights.

Somehow, for some reason, since they awakened their talent for magic, my parents, who were so proud that I, their daughter, actually worried about them, sent all four of them to magic school with me. Or rather, they forced them to go to magic school.

Although Tina and Fannie were in the same grade, my followers were unable to use Holy Magic, so I was alone for those practical lessons.

"....."

Today I was sitting in the center of the classroom on a bench that could clearly seat four more. Perhaps it's easier to imagine if I say that the classroom is shaped like an amphitheater, with stairs leading to the back.

I'm not lonely.

As I sat down in my seat, my classmates all turned to glance at me one by one after the teacher finished describing the syllabus, all trying to sneak a peep at

my face in some way or another.

Well, the Holy Magic class isn't that important to me in the first place.

My Holy Magic is almost unique, I just imagined things from reading books in the dream world, and used outrageous magic power with that image to cast it.

If it was a normal mage in this world who tried to cast my special spells, like my [Layered Barriers] or [Combat Strengthening], it would be absolutely necessary for them to be able to cast multiple spells in one go and maintain the images at the same time.

The Holy Magic teacher began to cry. Just how much hardship has this old man gone through...?

Even if I told him.....

You can't use it if you don't have a demon's magical power, please forgive me.

Although we seem to have wandered away from the story rather grandly, there are times when I am alone, but on this day someone came by chance.

"Yurushia."

Zawa..... From the classroom, the usual stir occurred again.

“.....Roderick-nii-sama”

As I called out the semi-official name for him, the girls of the class were all going “Kyaa-kyaa”.Why is that?

Rick-chan, the 11-year-old fourth grader, seems to be very popular among the girls who like those [Ore-sama]-type (TL: self-important) guys.

“.....Pff”

“.....What, are you laughing at me?”

Did you hear that? Did you hear it? But, because I am [Gentle], I didn't join in his pace, breaking everyone's dream states.

“Don't worry about it, is something the matter?”

“.....”

I mixed in a little of my [Tsun] mode and inclined my neck. Rick flinched a little, then uttered a small sigh.

“You... Are you safe?”

“...?”

... Is there something wrong with your head? That's something impolite you're saying there, you brat.

“For nii-sama to worry about me this much, how foolish.”

When I turned away from him with my real [Tsun] mode on, Rick forcibly grabbed my arm and turned be back around without flinching away.

“..... I did not say such a thing.”

He said, as he stared into my eyes scarily.

“...Also, to grip my arm so suddenly...”

“That's because..... Yurushia is such an idiot!”

What the heck.

He's not making any sense. As he's gotten older, he's gotten pushier. Although we are basically [Prince] and [Princess], do you not know what situation you're in right now?

Actually right now, all over the class, I can feel everyone's gazes... And now I'm another step away from getting along with the rest of the class.

“...Come with me.”

“...Ah.”

Did Rick also feel the weight of their stares? I was forcibly pulled out of the class by his arm.

Really, this child is way too aggressive. Although I agreed with him on wanting to leave that place immediately, he should apologize for using so much strength. Since Rick has gotten a lot bigger over these few years, the height difference is really big when he stands up, it's a little bit scary.

From the classroom I can hear various voices going “Kyaa-kyaa” and “Ooh”, it

feels like I'll lose if I pay them any attention... I've really gotten used to this recently.

"Rick..... my hand hurts"

"... Ye... Yeah."

We exited out to the corridor, and when I changed my way of speaking once we were out of the public eye, at least Rick let go of my hand. The part that he gripped is a little hot... Because the [Human] part of me has a weak constitution owing to being pampered, I have no pain tolerance, and tears accidentally came into my eyes.

".....As I thought, was it too hard?"

"...Eh?"

Rick muttered with a serious expression at my teary face.

What did you say, you child?

"You... Ever since you enrolled in school, you've been alone a lot..."

"Aah"

By any chance, are you talking about me being feared after the recent matter that happened in the dining room?

"... Rick, were you worried about me because of that?"

"Obviously."

... I was scolded.

Well, I was being scolded for worrying someone with what I've done, I'm seriously weak to people who are actually angry... But when threatened with malice, my mind goes the other way.

"I'm... I'm fine."

I turned away and muttered softly, it's unpleasant being glared at.

To tell the truth, I'm not actually all that worried, but when thinking about a child that's not even eight years old, it's hard not to get worried when they're being avoided by everyone around them.

While I was thinking such things with my head turned away, my shoulder was gently gripped this time. Hey... is your default action to grip me?

"I will come to see you again. ...got it?" (TL: He uses Ore-sama here, which is a very pompous term to address himself.)

"....."

... Come again? What? ...Eh? What do you mean by that?

Does the statement that you made before that you "worry for me like a younger sister" still hold?

I was stunned as Rick suddenly lightly wiped my teary eyes with his fingers before returning me to my class.

Rick is seriously very overbearing. Well, being [Overbearing] and [Selfish], is something that I'm well accustomed to thanks to [Him].....

Wait, did someone instruct both Rick and Timothy-kun to do this?

But Rick... You narrowly escaped death just now.

That whole time, whenever Rick touched me, I would feel an intense bloodlust leak out from Tina who was on stand-by, it scared even me.

".....Fuuu"

I felt depressed when I thought of how I'd need to go back to retrieve my textbook from the practical class. It's a giant pain.

Still, Rick has been really weird recently. Although he's been a weird fellow from the start, despite my cold attitude towards him, he seems to be strangely overprotective and concerned.

It's almost like he's a boy in love messing with his crush.....

.....Eh? What...?

Chapter 3: I Turned Eight Years Old ①

I finally turned eight years old.

Has anything changed? Well I might just be imagining it, but the difference in feeling between being a [Little Girl] and a [Young Lady] is very important.

Though I'm growing normally, I wonder how my body's doing.

Well... although I had the customary birthday party, I spent it in the royal capital. It wasn't split into multiple events and was neatly resolved in one place... very normally.

I didn't want to have it in the castle, but thinking about it, given the [Rumors] that have been going around about the Duke's daughter and all that, it would have been impossible to accommodate all the guests just in the Ducal Villa that we had in the capital.

Anyways, the Archbishop of the main religion in this country made an unusual display of coming in with his entourage of priests in tow.

Are you trying to win me over or do you want to maintain your distance, what do you want me to do?

Since I was thinking those types of thoughts, I decided that it was best to end the party in the castle early.

After all, with that guy, I don't know how to present myself as I talk to him...

A few days later, I used my authority as the [Princess] and left the royal capital.

Before you say anything, I wasn't playing hooky.

Father is often invited to many other countries on his diplomatic missions, but this time, the schedules clashed. Moreover, it was a wedding and a funeral.

So, even though Father was worried about me, I felt like I needed to play my role as the [Princess] and volunteered to go.

I-I'm not running off, okay?

Naturally, since I'm the [Princess] who is the diplomatic face of the Holy Kingdom, the school waived my absence. They're treating it like I'm away for a holiday break.

What about the school arc? Haven't you already had enough of that?

Anyways, since His Majesty the King bestowed the title of [Princess] purely so that he could spoil his grandchild as a Grandfather, he and Father both opposed it.

Still, I made my cute grand-daughter's sweetness appeal to Grandfather-sama. Also, according to Grandmother and Elea-sama's advice, if I sat on Father's lap and earnestly [Persuaded] him, he would do what I said.

Now that Father has finally yielded, I'm travelling to the neighboring country Shiguresu where Aunt-sama lives to attend the wedding of my younger cousin.

"Princess-sama! The mercenary company is approaching!"

On the day we departed, Sara-chan, who has become the vice-captain of my escort knight corps, reported to me.

Before I knew it, Sara-chan had become the vice-captain... by winning a fist-fight.

Don't pick that role with a process like that...

Why is it that the only female knight corps in the whole Kingdom is so hot-blooded...?

Mercenaries, the so-called [Jack-of-all-trades] of roughness.

I must regrettfully say, there is no such profession as [Adventurer] in this world.

When a monster appears in a village, the feudal lord will usually send out their soldiers, and a convenient thing like a dungeon doesn't exist... what a dream-crusher.

Instead of adventurers, we have [Mercenary Companies], who are people who undertake nobles' requests or guard travelling merchants.

There were a few mercenary companies in the capital, and as one of the

conditions for going to Shiguresu, Father insisted that I should be accompanied by one of the mercenary companies that he trusts.

In the end, the guards accompanying me to the wedding are as follows: Female escort knights: 15 members. Kingdom soldiers: 20 members. Cooks and Caretakers: 8 members. Mercenaries: 18 members. And with the inclusion of my 4 attendants, the total rounds off to 65 people.

... that's a lot, you know.

No, even as a representative of the country, isn't that too many?

Among the caretakers, Vio is accompanying us at Mother's request.

An impeccable choice. No matter how capable, Noa and Tina are still children.

As for Bree-chan and Sara-chan, for the sake of [Showing off] to the Shiguresu knights, they've been practicing their flashiest drills.....

Yup. I can see why Father and Mother would be worried.

Well, whatever. For now, let's just greet the representatives from the mercenary company who will be with us.

To tell the truth, I'm looking forward to what kind of dandy uncle would I meet.

It's a Bear... (TL: There's a pun here, his name basically means bear-man and he looks like a bear) "Princess-san, we've arrived. Please leave it to us to get you there safely."

"I'll be in your care, Bear-san."

I gave away my thoughts when I replied too quickly, but the mercenary troop leader, contrary to what I thought would happen, seemed rather pleased that I had addressed him as plainly as [Bear-san].

It seems that god hasn't abandoned me.

I'm a Demon who prayed to god, and at last salvation has come.

"Lucy!" (Note: A kindly reminder from last volume: Yurushia -> Rushia -> Lucia -> Lucy) "Noel?"

That's right. The one who bravely defended me, my lovely and cute Noel-kun.

We meet again after two years. Noel-kun, who has turned ten years old, seems to have gotten taller, though it doesn't seem like he's gotten manlier.

"Finally... I was able to meet you again."

"Ye... yeah"

Noel ran up to me like a puppy, and cupped my hands in his with a lovely smile on his face.

Wha-what? This skinship is intense...

"Hey, Noel!"

Gochin, a fist landed squarely painfully on Noel's head, looking rather painful.

"~~~"

"Suddenly grabbing the Princess-san's hands, what's wrong with you!?"

Bear-san has gotten angry.

In this case, Bear-san was correct, but the instant that he brought down his fist again, I had already unwittingly thrust out my hand in response.

"Tei!"

"DuooooOOOOOOOOOH!?"

"Hee!"

After my forehead poke, Bear-san and Tina both clasped their foreheads and squatted down.

Since Noel was holding my hands, Tina approached with a strange look on her face, so I gave her a forehead poke too.

By the way, the difference in magical power put into the forehead poke between Tina and Bear-san was about 500 times in magnitude.

How dangerous, how dangerous, it would have been a huge disaster if I'd made a mistake between my right and left hands.

"Bear-san, Noel is a friend of mine, can you forgive him?"

Even though I asked so modestly, Bear-san and Tina both didn't move from their crouching positions, and Bree-chan and Sara-chan were grasping each

other's hands in fear, it seems nobody listened to me "Wow, as expected of Saint-sama! I haven't received a good strike like that in ten years!"

Bear-san, who resurrected unexpectedly early, let out a hearty laugh.

Viva la Saint-sama. Thanks to that common-sense defying phrase: 'As expected of Saint-sama,' it was ignored.

"But, Noel, even as a friend of the [Princess] that's no good. I apologize; this fellow is still a newbie."

"I— I'm sorry, Lucy...sama."

He got scolded... that look on Noel is cute.

It was an unexpected surprise, but as this mercenary troop captain, Ba-Bar... na...bas..... as Bear-san said, Noel was a newbie that joined one year ago and they had high expectations of him.

Well, that's natural given Noel's absurd talent.

"By the way, Noel, why did you join a mercenary company...?"

"Uh, well... I wanted... to become strong."

Noel said while stealing glances at me.

"What's the matter...? As a boy, I don't think it's shameful for you to want [Strength], do you?"

"Ah... no."

As Noel was fidgeting shyly like a small animal, Bear-san gave a broad grin and violently pat him on the back.

"Men ought to be like that. Make sure to support Princess-san."

"Yeah, got it. Do your best, Noel."

"Y-Yes!"

Noel answered my encouragement with a smile, his cheeks flushing bright red.

Yep, Noel is cute. I wonder if I can get him to work for me instead.

Thus, our journey began.

Travelling to the neighboring country Shiguresu usually took about two weeks. But so as to not have me endure sleeping outside, the journey took three weeks as we went to the various inns on the way there.

Although I thought that it would be a smooth and peaceful journey, around the tenth day of our travels, our travelling party finally encountered a [Monster].

Guboh

"It's a [Hippo], be careful!"

Said Bear-san, as he took the mercenary troops out ahead of us while the escort knights formed a protective line around me.

Even though Noel didn't head out to the front lines, Bear-san had him use his support magic on the swords of the middle line of guards.

Vio had been teaching Noel holy magic and household magic during the journey.

Incidentally, I couldn't teach him. My explanations were overly vague, and he couldn't understand it at all... *sniffle* The yellow hippopotamus was reasonably strong, but somehow or another they managed to repel it.

Still... it really was a hippo. I really didn't think one would attack a traveler.

"I wonder if it was driven out by the elves of the forest..."

".....Eh?"

According to Bear-san, there's a village of Elves in the nearby forest, and it seems they've been cutting down large parts of the forest for agricultural land.

We technically rule their land. Are you okay with that, people of the forest? Cut it out, you Salt Daifukus. (TL: See early chapters for reference) They're so different from the elves of my imagination...

Well, after another three weeks we safely arrived in Shiguresu.

It's my first time in a foreign country. I wonder what kind of country Shiguresu is?

By the end, I wasn't able to talk much with Noel...

Chapter 4: I Turned Eight Years Old ②

The agricultural country, Shiguresu. Population: two million people, largely spread out in villages. In short, it's a country made mostly of fields. As expected, the city centers were beautiful towns.

Although we got to Shiguresu early, by the time we got to town it was already too late to have a little walk on my own.

"Princess-sama, this baked potato is delicious"

"No, no, this sorghum is so sweet..."

"There's freshly-harvested raw white asparagus here..."

...You guys are fully enjoying this as a vacation, huh. In the middle of the village road we travelled, there were open-air stalls strewn all over the place, and my escort knights jumped at the chance to go shopping.

Everyone in the mercenary troop was left dumbfounded at the entirely carefree female knights' actions.

No, no, please forgive them.

Well, ever since I enrolled at the Royal Capital's Magic Academy, they haven't had much time outside. Since we're having this long trip after so long, they naturally felt like carousing.

Although my aim was to be a laid-back boss, I wonder if I pampered them way too much.

"Vio. Make sure that they all submit a detailed report on what they're eating right now."

I instructed Vio, who was the only one riding in the same carriage as me outside of my four attendants. Vio nodded with a serious face, and I laughed a little.

"Princess Yuru-sama you're very gentle, aren't you?"

"But I gave them more work to do...?"

Mu~... it's very sweet, huh. While there's nothing I can think of to export to Shiguresu, if there's something that's cheap and delicious, we should definitely import it.

Before being a Princess or a Saint, I'm the daughter of Duke Verusenia.

*

"Presenting herself to Her Royal Younger Brother, Oslo, for his Wedding, on behalf of Taterudo, Yurushia-la-Verusenia sends her congratulations."

The wedding ceremony between His Royal Highness Oslo and the lady of Marquis Etia's household was held three days after our arrival at the capital of Shiguresu.

Although it wasn't especially showy, it was held in the Royal Castle, the largest in Shiguresu. The various royal families were announced in front of the rest of the attending parties. After that, there were three more rounds of greetings in total for those present for the wedding reception.

Three rounds of greetings; with all three rounds between the same people... it's quite severe.

After all, as the representative of the Holy Kingdom of Taterudo, it was necessary for me to express our congratulations to a lot of different people.

"Yuru-chan, great work, it went splendidly."

As I finished the greetings and was about to go back to the venue, the Queen-sama came up to thank me and tightly hugged me.

"Thank you very much, Q...Queen-sama."

"Ufufu, it's fine to just call me 'Aunt-sama'."

A great beauty with luxurious blonde hair, this is my aunt, Camille-sama, who married into the royal family of Shiguresu.

And now, I'm buried in her chest.

"Um... I will call you that outside of formal occasions, then."

"Really, Yuru-chan, you're so responsible... as expected of Folt's daughter, you even look like him."

When she said that I resembled Father, I instinctively gave a complacent smile.

Speaking of Father... I wanted to hear about something from Aunt-sama.

"Aunt-sama..... where are my elder sisters?"

When I asked, a somewhat un-queenly smile spread across Aunt Camille-sama's face as she contemplated it.

My elder sisters both went to boarding schools in this place, Shiguresu.

I was really looking forward to meeting those wonderful elder sisters again, I was wondering what they'd try this time...

Although Aunt-sama's face looked like she didn't want to think about it, she told the story to me, since I'm the [Little Sister].

"Although Folt requested that they study abroad, those two barely attend their classes, recently they've been with the Hero-sama all the time..."

"...What?"

Although my elder sisters seem to be doing well, some strange words came out.

"...Hero-sama...?"

"Did Yuru not know...? It's been all the talk of the country lately."

Hero. A man of courage. Standing at the forefront of humanity, a person that gives others hope.

I wasn't aware, but recently there have been kidnappings in this country by [Daemons], and a small party broke through and cleared their camp, rescuing all the children. how typical.

Huh... so there's a person like that.

When I helped the children back then, and I got called [Saint] without asking, I wonder if it's that same sort of situation.

While I was thinking simple thoughts, Aunt Camille-sama seemed to be worrying about my carefree self.

"Yuru-chan, be careful if you're staying in the hall. Since you're a beautiful little girl, there might be some bad people that might come after you."

"Y-Yes..."

Just like everyone else who's related to me, she's excessively overvalued my appearance.

"Would you allow my sons to escort you? And, if Yuru-chan agrees, can the three of us can take you home?"

"No, well, err..."

That's right. Aunt-sama's children were all boys.

Normally, a male child in a royal family would be good. For the first boy, that is that, and this is this. Once more boys keep coming, words like "A Princess would be nice" start to spring out of thin air.

Now that I'm eight years old, talk of marriage proposals have started coming from all over.

My standing, although I have royal blood, is that of a daughter of a duke, the social threshold for marrying was lower, and yet, with my recognition as the Holy Kingdom's [Princess], everyone sees me as a [Princess-sama], so at the moment, it feels like I'm a popular item at a shop that's about to run out of stock.

The reason that I enrolled at the magic academy was because I wanted to experience love... But, because of [That Guy], I can't find a target, which is a problem.

I definitely don't want to be looked at with those sorts of eyes...

But, if it turns out that I'm misunderstanding, I'd be terribly embarrassed.

In any case here, without Father-sama or Mother-sama around, it's impossible for this eight-year-old daughter to be [Sold] away.

"Aunt-sama, my escort, umm... he is here. Noel~!"

To be honest, my guard in this party is only supposed to be Sara-chan and Bree-chan. As the famous mercenary company Ba-, Bruna..... Bear-san's only

available [friend] whose age was close to that of mine, Noel-kun came along too.

Noel-kun who was wearing gorgeous clothes that were rented from a town in Shiguresu, he's so shy, it's seriously cute.

Seeing Noel like that, it was so cute that I was satisfied just looking at him. Aunt-sama let out a giggle, and whispered gently in my ear.

"Yuru-chan, when you leave this country, be careful of the hero of the Kostoru religion's Hero."

*

The worship of the Harvest Goddess Kostoru was the most popular religion, and was recognised as the official religions of both Taterudo and Shiguresu.

What does she mean to [Be Careful] of the Kostoru religion?

And Aunt Camille-sama said to be careful of the [Hero].

In the stories, isn't the Hero is usually a [Good person]...?

"...Lu-Lucy...?"

Because I was brooding for a while, my escort, Noel, seemed anxious.

"Ah, sorry about that."

While I was lost in my thoughts, I moved my hand onto Noel's arm, and his face stiffened.

"...What's the matter?"

"N-nothing....."

How strange, Noel...he's been acting strangely ever since we reunited. Because of that, we weren't able to speak much during the journey, I wonder if we can have a relaxed conversation today.

As we walked, everyone's gazes turned to focus on us. Since the people of this country aren't used to [Me], it's good that I didn't have to talk too much, but still, it was terrible to be stared at like that.

"Noel, I'm sorry..."

"...Eh, for what?"

"Since I'm so conspicuous, aren't you uncomfortable while you're with me?"

When I said that, Noel shook his head with a little bit of astonishment.

"Lu-, Lucy stands out, so it can't be helped. Because you're a Princess-sama and the Holy Saint."

Both of those titles were just given by other people without my permission...

The church people, although they tried to win me over, never gave their [Certification of Sainthood] to me. What do they want, exactly?

As I pondered this with a tenuous smile, Noel blushed and spoke softly.

"Besides... Lucy is... beautiful"

"....."

Uwaaah..... I'm feeling really embarrassed.

Wherever I went, I was feared, so it was always a choice between being surrounded or leaving, this is the first time I've ever heard such words from a boy...

My face..... I wonder if my face is red too.

Since I'm Noel-kun's [Esteemed Holy Saint], his evaluation of me is abnormally high. I wish that I could see how I look in Noel's eyes...

"Yurushia-sama, are you okay?"

To Noel and I, who were standing there in embarrassed silence, someone I didn't know called out.

"...What's the matter?"

The voice's owner was a well-dressed uncle wearing the holy symbol of the harvest goddess.

... the Kostoru religion, huh.

"I am the high priest Calisto, of the Kostoru church in Shiguresu's capital. I wanted to speak to you, to give Yurushia-sama a message..."

"Greetings, Calisto-sama, I am Yurushia-la-Verusenia."

I instantly switched to my [Duke's Daughter] mode.

But, high priest, huh... I completely don't know what level of position that is.
The thin 50 year old uncle that doesn't seem to be doing so well.

"Today I'd like to introduce someone to Yurushia-sama..... would that be fine by you?"

"... Yeah, it's not an issue."

Somehow or another the flow of the conversation went in that direction. As Aunt Camille-sama's advice crossed my mind, Calisto-san sent his gaze behind him, and several men and women came over.

"As you may know, this is the [Hero], Alfonso."

It arrived..... the Hero-sama.

Chapter 5: I Turned Eight Years Old ③

The Hero had dark hair and eyes, he was a man of medium build that looked like he was in his early twenties.

That's the [Hero-sama], huh.....

Although he's a bit charming right now, it's too bad... You should come back again in ten years, youngster.

You either fancy adult men, or fancy school boys. There is no middle ground.

Well, it doesn't matter.

"What a pleasure meeting you, oh beautiful princess. I am named Alfio, and while I am very boastfully called a hero by other people, Princess-sama, I would prefer for you to call me Al."

This is the Hero? Alfio knelt in front of me, and was about to kiss my hand... right before that happened, Noel cut in and stopped him.

"..."

"..."

A threatening atmosphere almost engulfed us immediately, as Alfio stood up instantly, and looked down upon Noel from above with a bright smile on his face.

"Princess-sama seems to have an excellent knight."

Although he had a bright smile on his face, after hearing Aunt-sama's words, it clearly seemed somewhat off.

For now, even as I gave Noel a thumbs-up in my heart, I should return his greeting as if nothing had happened.

"I— I am, Yu-Yurushia-la-Verusenia..."

C-Crap, my cheeks cramped up.

Apparently, after Noel's act of courage, I couldn't bring forth the mental strength for that situation.

Hero Alfio looked puzzled at the state I was in, but I was able to convince him to ignore it by smiling right away.

“Hahaha, Yurushia-sama. Although I’m called a hero, but you need not be so nervous. I merely wanted to introduce you to my party.”

Wrong. That’s completely different.

“First off, the person taking the role of healer, Antique.”

Buho

At that point, I hit the limits of my self-control, and couldn’t help but leak a chuckle.

“.....Wh-what is it...”

As I was there trembling and holding my stomach, she ... the Elf Antique-san, frowned and muttered.

“Deepest apologies... I’m Yurushia-la-Verusenia...”

I never would I have thought that I would experience the surprise of an Elf at this occasion.

Although I greeted her with my cheeks still cramping, Antei-Kowa-san seemed to be making light of me as a child, and introduced herself arrogantly.

“Apology accepted... I am Antique. If you would call Alfio ‘Al,’ then you should call me ‘Anko.’” (TL: There’s a joke here: red bean paste (anko) is commonly found as filling for small glutinous rice cake (daifuku) and shiodaifuku is this world’s word for elf)

Buha

Once again, I couldn’t hold my breath in. This Shiodaifuku (Elf)... how terrible to name her that.

While I was still mysteriously suffering from the cramp, Anko-san’s face became stiff, and she forced a smile at me with a condescending attitude.

“Should I heal you? Although I may look like this, in the north, I’m called the [Saint of the Elves], you know. Isn’t it terrible to be called a [Saint] when you’re so young? It’s tough to be alone as a saint, don’t you agree?”

For this elf girl to not only have long ears, just like I imagined, but to be a beautiful woman with slender curves, this is no good..... I started laughing the moment I saw her face.

“Yurushia, stop that at once!”

From behind Anko-san came a voice scolding me, as I kept laughing. It can't be helped that they'd get angry.

But, this turn of events is really good.

“Elder sister-sama, I wanted to meet you again.”

As soon as my view shifted away from Anko-san, my laughter finally abated. My Elder Sister-sama seemed to be surprised to see me, and had a smile on her face.

She finally arrived, my half-sister, Athena-sama, and hidden behind her, staring pointedly at me, was Ophelia-sama.

“Yurushia-sama’s sisters have also become my companions.”

Under Hero Alfio’s guidance, my Elder Sister-samas seem to be part of Hero-sama’s entourage as their resident [Mages].

Aaah, I finally managed to meet them again. My delightful Elder-sister-samas.

Especially Sister Athena-sama, who is clearly [Ripening] quite well, I plan to greatly enjoy the harvest.

“Hah, an idiot child like you, after hearing Alf-sama’s words, still think of being allowed to display such disregard towards Anko-sama!?”

Because I was smiling too much, it seems that Sister Athena-sama has been drawn in, somehow.

...Please don’t speak again, Anko. I’ll start laughing again.

“That’s right, towards the Hero Alfio-sama’s companions, you dare...”

At Sister Ophelia-sama, who began to spout things like some petty toady, I gave her a silent look and applied some light [Intimidation], she immediately quieted down.

“As Father’s daughter, you’re quite shameless, Elder Sister-sama.”

“...You”

Sister Athena-sama came forward, sheltering Ophelia-oneesama behind her.

The grand sister showdown..... didn’t happen. Even though Athena-oneesama glared at me, I only smiled normally at her.

But... I seem to have gained a little understanding of Athena-oneesama.

Even as I smiled at them, in my eyes they couldn’t even be seen as [Human]

.....

“I’m sorry, Elder Sister-samas. I’m just so happy to be able to *play* with you again.”

It’s not good to be picking fruit before it ripens, I broke off the conversation gently with a full-faced smile, and Athena-oneesama gritted her teeth together with a *giri*.

“I’ll remember this.....”

Taking in my meek, [Sarcastic] obeisance, Elder-sister-sama left behind a sharp and tasty parting shot, before walking away once again.

Of course I won’t let you forget. Although I only did it just a little, I wonder if I messed with her too much...

Hero-sama and Anko-san both followed behind my Elder-sister-samas and left, while Callisto-san blanched out in surprise at what happened, and, after giving me a panicked bow, turned away to follow them, saying.

“Yurushia-sama, the year after the next I will..... no, next year, the bishops of the Kostoru religion will be finalising our decision. On that occasion, I will come again to greet you without fail.....”

* * *

The Hero of Shiguresu, Alfio Pet. 22 years old, has an unspeakable secret.

Born the second son to a large orchard owner in the north of Shiguresu, although he was not a noble, his family was plenty affluent.

His first change came when he was two years old.

During the magic inspection, although he had no affinity for spiritual magic,

he was compatible with all of the normal magical elements like wind, water, earth and fire. Alfio's surprised parents gave him a specialised education, and he grew up being praised by everyone.

The second major change in his life came when he was four years old.

His parents and siblings all had dark red hair and tea-coloured eyes, while he was the only one who had black hair and eyes. Although nobody in his family seemed to make much of it, Alfio still felt alien to his family, and, gradually, his thoughts changed until he finally thought of himself as [A Chosen One].

Then... at seven years of age, when he fell asleep from a high fever, he suddenly recalled memories of a [Previous Life].

His name in his previous life, his face, and even his family he couldn't remember.

In Alfio's previous life Magic didn't exist, it was a world that overflowed with scientific knowledge. By recalling that otherworldly [Knowledge], he remembered that his previous self died of alcohol poisoning while still in university, and he became convinced that he had been reincarnated into this world.

After that, Alfio began to train in magic and swordplay as if he was a whole other person.

With the knowledge that he had gained in his previous life, he created new magics and trained himself in magic with an unnatural fervor. By processing the fruits that his family produced with the technology of his previous life, he greatly expanded his family's business.

After defeating a monster that attacked a village near his family's orchards and repelling the mass of elephants that had attacked the Elven lands after they cleared the forest for development together with a beautiful Elf lady, Alfio had been hailed as the [Hero] of Shiguresu before he knew it.

Alfio tenderly smiled at the elf girl and the daughter of a knight, who was both a warrior and his childhood friend as he thought how he could show her his favor.

{... Finally, it's just the two of us.}

Although cases of polygamy were few in the neighbouring Holy Kingdom, in Shiguresu it wasn't unusual.

In his previous life he longed for a beautiful Elf.

And a childhood friend that was the daughter of a knight.

It wasn't enough. If he had been reborn to such a world, he seriously felt that at the very least he wanted to have six brides.

Why six people specifically? It was to have one to enjoy on each day, and on the last day enjoy all of them together.

One day, the high priest that sponsored Alfio invited him to attend His Highness the Second Prince's wedding.

Although his strange personality made him keep his distance from the royal family no matter how famous he became, the moment he heard from the noble girls that he had made his [Bride (Harem)] candidates a few months ago, that their beautiful [Younger Sister] would be attending, he immediately decided to attend.

The day of the wedding. Although he was a little disappointed upon hearing that that [Younger Sister] was only eight years old, he reconsidered and thought that it would be [Acceptable], and attended the wedding reception anyway. He was stunned by the beauty of the girl that he met.

Faintly shimmering hair that seemed like it was made of gold thread.

Smooth white skin that resembled top-quality porcelain.

Features that were so beautiful that they were faultless, and even in his previous life, where he was used to seeing 2D girls and CGs, she was so beautiful that he felt that it couldn't possibly have been natural, a girl that he couldn't help but perceive as absolutely perfect.

{I must obtain this beautiful girl}

So Alfio swore to himself, as he accepted his mission from the high priest to attack the kidnappers and save the children.

Something strange, she had struggled to contain her laughter when she first met the existence of the Salt Daifuku (Elf), it gave him a strange sense of

intimacy with the girl.

Chapter 6: The Magnificent Daily Life of Demons ①

It's been several months since my [Princess] business in Shiguresu ended and we returned to Tariterudo.

Daytime life hasn't really changed much. Going to school in a carriage, I walk with my four attendants while being stared at by the rest of the students who would surround us.

.....Wait what? Thinking about those [Stories] that I'd heard about my Elder Sister-samas, don't I also give off the feeling of a [Villainous Young Lady] right now?

I sometimes meet with Rick during the evening. Since whenever he comes to the classroom, everything fall apart, I've been avoiding him.

With an attitude like that, it's almost a copy of [**His**] character.....

The point is, that attitude is clearly a no-go. Put bluntly, the reason why I'm having a headache is because these days, Timothy-kun keeps coming over to see me to "Fuss over his cousin as a gentle Prince-sama" to make up for Rick, but since he comes over so frequently, [Dubious Rumours] began to arise. It's scaring me.

Well, while I've been making idle complaints about having this kind of school life, I haven't been too busy.

Participating in other nobles' tea parties, studying magic, answering and writing letters to Noel, shopping with Shelly, Betty, and my own escort knights in a group, although we trouble the shops. I've been really busy as the [Duke's Daughter Yurushia], but I there were times where I was really worried both as a human and demon as the [Demon Princess].

My attendants (Demons), have you all been diligently working?

* * *

"... Here's the report."

"Yeah, thanks. Would you like a candy?"

At the sight of an eight year old little lady presenting [Black Candy], the vampire butler had a strained smile upon his face... but he still gladly received it, and disappeared into the darkness of the town.

Left behind was a small girl with pure white hair, dressed in a maid's uniform.

Late at night with all the devout residents having already gone to bed... in an incongruously dark alley, Fannie was seeing off a vampire with a bright smile as she took from her pocket a piece of [Black Candy] that she threw into her mouth appetizingly.

Of course, anything that demons or vampires which found human food unpalatable, found delicious couldn't be a good thing. It would be better if you didn't think about the [Raw Materials].

Under her master, Yurushia's, orders, Fannie was investigating the Kostoru church.

Due to Fannie's childlike disposition, Yurushia had Millaine cooperate with her, and asked the vampires to investigate the rumours in the populace.

Although she's called childish, at her level, it didn't really hinder her carrying out her task.

Fannie would receive the intelligence reports from the vampires, and from there would extract the essential points of it. Besides investigating the church in the capital, she would also go to Shiguresu and investigate the high priest there, Callisto.

Fannie's [Power] as a Demon was the lowest among the four Arch Demons.

But it's not the [Case] that her overall ability is lower, but rather that her powers aren't really suited for direct combat.

Fannie's [Power] can be used to perform [Spatial Teleportation] by using human souls as markers.

Other demons could also use teleportation, but only Fannie could use long-ranged teleportation without cost, an ability that was most suited for espionage.

Yurushia, was even more unusual as a demon, since she has no ability, but an enormous amount of magical power...

“Is something wrong...?”

In the church of the Royal Capital, nothing was out of the ordinary. Although a little bit of embezzlement and dishonesty were found, the kinds of intel that the master was looking for didn’t exist. Fannie didn’t know if Millaine had received any other instructions to deal with the matter from her master.

However, the one thing that worried her master was high priest Callisto of Shiguresu’s church. Although on the surface there weren’t any problems, the aforementioned [Hero’s Party] was being dispatched on unusual tasks.

The contents of the requests were all proper, and the Heroes also diligently performed their contents.

However, for someone like Fannie, who [Sensed] things through people’s [Nightmares], she thought that what she saw was very unnatural.

“Why, are so few people being helped?”

The Heroes received the request to find a few children and rescued them.

But, on the day the request was received, she would always find a large number of other people caught somewhere else.

“N~~...”

As much as she thought about it, she couldn’t understand. Therefore, Fannie decided to go to the scene herself to satisfy her curiosity.

In that place, there was one child and three adults. Fannie chose the most appropriate out of several locations she knew of.

If she were forced to say why she chose this place, it would be that it looked [The Most Delicious].

While she peeked into the small hut that looked like a restroom or an old storeroom on a farm, she heard

“Shut up, brat!”

Someone yelled as a large man kicked the small child. It seems the man

wasn't kicking the child with full force, since the little girl who was smaller than Fannie was doubled over in pain, rolled up in fear and crying.

"Fu~hnn..."

Fannie let out an emotionless humph. As a demon, she didn't have the heart to feel pity for humans, the feelings that flowed from that little girl and the adults weren't what Fannie preferred, so she wasn't particularly interested.

"...Who's there?"

The big man, who noticed Fannie's faint voice, instantly went on alert, drawing his thick-bladed cutlass and turning towards the door.

As an ex-mercenary with battle experience in forests and remote regions, he was well-prepared.

".....Huuu..."

As he walked out, he met the gaze of [Something]. He sucked in a breath to scream, but the flame of his life was instantly extinguished by the tens of thousands of [Nightmares].

"Good evening—"

When the victims saw a young girl dressed in maid clothing coming back in instead of the kidnapper that had gone out, the men and women looked at the girl in both fear and confusion.

Strangely, the girl looked around the hut then approached the crying little girl, patting her head gently.

Fannie didn't say anything, instead she kept stroking the hair of the little girl, who turned her tear covered face upwards with a look of fear.

".....Woo're yuu?" (TL: who're you, slurred for little kid crying)

Fannie smiled brightly at the little girl who lisped out the words.

"Would you like a candy?"

".....Wanna eat."

Fannie took out a [Black Candy] from her pocket and presented it to the little girl, but she didn't move. Fannie could see her own reflection in those cloudy

eyes.

“Are you blind?”

“Yeahh...”

“Well then, open your mouth.”

When the little blind girl obediently opened her mouth, Fannie put the candy into her mouth and tore apart the rope that bound her body easily with the tip of her finger.

“...Thank you, Onee-chan..... but does this candy tastes strange?”

“Isn’t it delicious?”

“Umm, well..... it’s delicious, but strange.”

“Ehehe, I see.”

Fannie laughed delightedly at the little girl’s honest impressions.

Just don’t think about the raw ingredients of that candy.

At the carefree scene between little girls, the man and woman who had been kidnapped let down their guard, but suddenly, a commotion broke out.

“Oi, Missy, before that man comes back, cut the ropes binding us.”

“Leave that brat alone, cut the ropes binding me, hurry!”

Fannie turned around with an annoyed look towards those men and women.

“Are you not this child’s parents...?”

“No, we don’t know that brat at all.”

“That’s right, so missy, hurry up and cut these ropes”

“Fuh~n...”

At that answer, Fannie instantly lost her interest and began stroking the little girl’s hair again.

“Oii?”

“Wa-wait, what are you doing?”

“.....”

As the little girl was getting scared from the adults' voices, Fannie's smile began to twist.

".....Annoying"

Fannie stood up and walked towards the men and women, finally answering their calls for help, the man couldn't conceal his irritation even though he looked glad.

"Now, hurr-..... byu"

As he started to say something again, Fannie struck the man's head, instantly crushing it.

The blood and flesh splattered onto the face of the woman next to him, dying her red.

"Hiie"

Just before she could release a scream, Fannie tore her head off at the neck, after a second of soundless screaming, the light faded from the woman's eyes.

"...Onee-chan, what's happened? What happened to the other people?"

"Mmm... they fell asleep?"

"Is that so..... what a strange smell."

"That is the smell of [Death]"

As Fannie had a self-satisfied face that said [Hey, I Said Something Cool] while the smell of blood hung in the air, the blind little girl inclined her neck, and muttered, "Why is that?"

Fannie didn't especially mean to help this girl. Just like finding a feral cat in the neighbourhood, she merely wanted to pat that hair since it looked like it was really soft.

Had it not been a human child, but a kitten, Fannie would have done the same thing.

So, now that the uselessly annoying human beings were gone, Fannie once again began to stroke the hair of the little girl.

"Put your hands up!"

As the voice came from the entrance to the hut, so too did multiple fireball magics, but Fannie put on her Clown Mask and stopped the attacks.

“Release that child, Daemon!”

The black haired man shouted and pointed his sword at Fannie, along with an Elf that came after, and a girl who looked like a swordswoman, stared at her with both anger and caution.

{That's definitely the hero... right? But what in the world is a Daemon?}

Few people could tell at first glance that Fannie, with the mask and form of a human child, was actually an Arch Demon.

The hero savagely slashed at Fannie that was inclining her neck in puzzlement from the misunderstanding.

“Die, Daemon!”

Swinging his sword so quickly that the little girl near him couldn't even see, Fannie dodged it simply, before it continued and destroyed the wall of the hut, leaving a hole to the outside.

“.....”

To suddenly be shouted at and then violently attacked, Fannie couldn't wrap her head around why.

As the little girl began to cry again, the swordswoman hugged her close, soothing her repeatedly, saying ‘It's alright, you're safe now’. For Fannie, however, it felt like her beloved [Kitten] had been stolen from her.

“..... Human scum.”

Although she wanted to exterminate them all due to her feelings, according to her master, Yurushia's, instructions, she was told to avoid getting into a serious fight.

Besides, Yurushia was concerned about the [Hero's] combat ability.

Although Fannie didn't think that her opponent would be a serious problem, since this was the word of her creator and mother Yurushia, she thought that Yurushia must surely have some significant reason.

“...[Let there be Lie-t]” (TL: this is Yurushia’s “Let there be light, but with forced pronunciation.”)

The Elf girl, used Holy magic without speaking the incantation properly, casting defensive divine protection magic upon her companions.

Fannie was preoccupied with comparing this ungraceful use of magic to her master’s own, while the hero, who had been magically-enhanced, swung his sword with a speed that exceeded that of human beings. The moment Fannie dodged it, the swordswoman who left the little girl behind showed up on her flank.

“Got you now!”

At the sudden lunge of the saber, Fannie pinched the blade with the tips of her fingers, and with a *pakin* snapped the blade.

{Heeh... are they cooperating?}

While Fannie leisurely entertained these thoughts, from behind,

“”Fireball!“”

Two overlapping voices were heard and two fireballs came flying.

It was troublesome, and she thought about blowing away those magic power users with all her strength,

“...!?”

Fannie unexpectedly stopped and received the fireballs squarely.

“I did it!”

“Well done, Athena, Ophelia.”

“Hold, don’t let your guard down.”

The two girls rejoiced at being praised while the Elf girl admonished them.

“It broke my sword easily..... Is this guy at the level of a Daemon King’s aide?”

The swordswoman girl borrowed a spare sword from the elf, and readied herself, cold sweat running down her back as Fannie was engulfed within the fireball.

“.....”

Everyone held their breath as it became clear that from all that flame and smoke, only Fannie's maid clothing had been burned.

But Fannie, not so much.

First, was the redhead girls that had released the fireballs, the two of them

.....

Master Yurushia has talked about those humans, saying: “If you touch my prey, you'll be punished.” Fannie knew that she might be scolded if they were damaged.

“.....I'm going home.”

Punishment was scary.

Since she didn't originally plan to fight, after giving the little girl a reluctant look, she rapidly left that place.

“.....Did she escape...?”

The heroes, after that strong [Daemon] retreated, finally let out the breath they didn't know they'd been holding and sat down.

“.....She was strong.even though she looked like a child.”

“It's because she's a Daemon. There are tribes of them that're small-sized.”

“Ah, the child.”

Rushing over to the child that the swordswoman had left alone, the little girl that was constantly crying and calling out for [Onee-chan]. Once the heroes' party discovered the corpse of the woman in the hut, it seemed that she was an awfully kind child, mourning for the woman's death.

As the sun rose, the hero made a vow.

“That Daemon, the next time we meet, I will definitely exact revenge for this child's [Onee-chan].”

Later, when the blind girl was returned to her parents' home, a little light returned to her eyes. To her parents, who wondered about it, she said: “I received a mysterious candy from the gentle onee-chan.” Although, that is a

story for another time.

Chapter 7: The Magnificent Daily Life of Demons ②

Yurushia's attendants were students too, and so they also had to go to class, and so couldn't always be at her side.

This was especially for the case of the twins, who were in a different grade level. This often separated them from their master, outside of the regular meeting and reporting appointments.

Two girls were seated at an outdoor table of the Magical Academy's cafeteria.

One was a transfer fourth year student, a brunette with long hair and silver eyes... Nia.

The other was a new first year student with blonde curly hair and green eyes... Tina.

They were servants of the Duchess of Verusenia who had been causing such a [Commotion] this year. Although they tended to be overlooked, since they were at the side of such an unapproachably beautiful Lady, they, along with Fannie, were widely recognized as beautiful as well.

"Hey... Nia. What can we do..."

Tina let out a complaint in a voice like a tired office lady. Nia gave her a gentle look while sweating from the summer rays.

To be honest, Tina had been complaining like this for a long time. Since she couldn't say 'I don't know, something' like she wanted to, Nia eventually said "Hmm... why not let loose?"

"What!?"

Tina suddenly leaned forward and Nia nearly pulled out her sword on instinct, before remembering that she was in uniform, holding onto Tina with one hand.

Pon The small sound of leaves dancing in the wind filled the air. A student in air spirit magic might think that a spirit was moving past, but they certainly

wouldn't think that it would be the result of a conflict between the magic auras of two upper class demons.

"There, there. Yurushia-sama is a cat-type, she'll slap you if you move so suddenly."

"... Is that the case?"

Tina puffed out her cheeks in dissatisfaction.

Tina's problem was that even with the overflowing [Love] for her lord, she felt like it was leaking to someone else.

"That's about right."

Nia nodded at Tina's muttering.

Nia knew, however, that this wasn't correct. Her love overflowing wasn't a problem unless somehow she was leaking love, but she had long ago given up trying to argue that point.

"....."

How had things come to this? They'd known her since they were powerless demons; this place was just so much stranger than the [Demon World].

Nia had merged with the human soul who called herself [Ninette] and had inherited her memories and [Emotions].

Disrespectful feelings against their lord existed in them. Even though Nia had eaten the emotions of hatred, some of them were closer to [Love of Herself], which fit with Nia's originally relaxed personality.

Regardless of the content of their conversation, since they were two famous girls in the academy talking with such terse expressions, it couldn't help but attract attention.

Although they're usually avoided due to their actions, because their cold attitudes were seen as being because of their loyalty and due to their pleasant attitude given to their Lord, those two had garnered popularity in the school, regardless of gender.

"....."

Tina, who was sipping her tasteless tea, slightly moved her eyebrows.

She felt the [Thoughts] in the eyes on them and looked curiously at Nia.

“Ready to go again?”

Nia said in a relaxed tone, still narrowing her eyes a little.

Tina and Nia left their tea without a word, walking side by side after standing up.

Fannie had an excellent ability, but her personality was childish.

Noa was talented at everything, but after fusing with that human soul, he began planning happy events for Yurushia.

In that respect, these two were serious not only in work, but serious in life. When it came to actions to be taken in human society, they trusted each other the most.

In the school, there were not just teachers and students.

There were also many guards due to the many nobles, some of the nobles bring followers like Tina as well.

Besides them, there were a considerable amount of external presences in the school, such as suppliers of food and supplies, or merchants who came to speak with the teachers.

The two girls slowly walked through the academy until they entered an old classroom which the school wasn't using. Tina frowned and tensed her mouth.

“... Quite a lot of dust.”

Footprints were left behind as the two girls walked in. The classroom was covered in dust.

“Umm, that's probably not good. No need to worry, though.”

Nia said in a calm voice as the two began waiting in the classroom without desks or chairs until finally, the person they were waiting for arrived.

“Umm... are you Ninette-sama and Christina-sama?”

The person in question was not a student. He was dressed as a commoner

and looked to be around thirty years old.

Although he was dressed that way, his attitude was nothing like that of a commoner. The follower of a noble, he seemed to be a spy.

The two girls... or rather, the four attendants, came into contact with various humans every day.

People wanted to become acquaintances or friends.

Students would confess their feelings.

A noble would invite them to attend them instead, having seen them work.

Some wanted connections to the young duchess of Verusenia, but could not arrange a meeting in person.

So on and so forth...

"I am Ileo, of the holy church, pleased to meet you. I'm honored to speak with the attendants of your master, please allow me to tell you my situation..."

The man who used the name Ileo said he was a messenger from the church.

These incidents were not uncommon. Since Yurushia was still young, there were very few opportunities to speak with her at official parties. Since the requests filtered through her father, Duke Verusenia, only so many requests made it to Yurushia, leading to non-standard message giving.

"....."

Tina did not return Ileo's greeting, she just glared at the insect in front of her in silence.

"W-wow, this place is dusty... hehehe..."

Ileo was having trouble breathing under the child's gaze and aimed a smile at Nia, hoping to get help. Nia had not been paying attention to him from the start, as she had begun to clean her nails.

Ileo's smile shrunk, as he began to righteously speak.

"As expected of those who are at the side of Saint-sama. I am definitely not a suspicious person. In fact, I'm part of the faction that supports a new interpretation of Kostoruism and we wish to recognize Yurushia as a [Saint] as

we launch our new [Church].”

In short, he wanted to establish a new [Sect], and wants Yurushia to become their official [Saint]... is what he's trying to say.

“So, you're a messenger from the church?”

Nia, who was polishing her nails, caught his expression.

First of all, to call himself a [Messenger of the Church] was wrong from the beginning, since they support a different doctrine.

“No, no, we are current members of the church at the moment, so there's no problem.”

Ileo said fearlessly.

Him not being a real representative was a huge problem, she guessed he had been going to try to bluff and smile through this since Nia and her were children.

“What kind of interpretation do you follow?”

Ileo nodded happily as Tina broke the silence.

“We can hear the voices. The spirits of the world speak of an unspeakably evil demon, and the Goddess cannot show us where it is. Therefore, we will collect people with magical power like you and, with the help of the saint; we hope to be able to bring forth [God].”

“ “.....”

At Ileo's confident words, Tina and Nia's faces twisted into disgust.

Both of them knew... as demons who lived in the Demon World, no one had ever encountered [God].

Still, while they did not care about such an absurd delusion, they could not forgive him.

“You say that you are collecting people with magical power. Are you [Summoning] it?”

“It may be impossible to believe, but with the friendship of a certain powerful country, an Archbishop was able to get us help.”

How could there be a [Great Country] that would lend their aid to such trash?

Ileo was speaking with a confident expression, ecstatic as if flying through the air.

In contrast, the two girls looked cold, their faces tightened up into fake smile at the man who was speaking to them as if they were children.

"Originally, I was planning on speaking with you when Yurushia turned 10 years old, Yurushia-sama's power and name have traveled far, and various countries and religions are all wanting for her to become their [Saint-sama]... For us, until Yurushia is ready I ask that you not take the invitations of other religions."

For the various religions, the conference to decide on Yurushia's sainthood has come.

Since nobody had talked directly to Yurushia, she didn't know, but the country and royal family were very involved in the result of the title of [Saint] of the Holy Kingdom, but were unable to claim it due to the intentions of the religion.

The royal family decided that the saint title should come when Yurushia reached 10 years old.

Until then, it wasn't possible to come to the table to almost certainly certify Yurushia as a saint by the Kostoru state religion.

Nobody wanted to miss a huge [Advertisement Opportunity] like Yurushia. In a place unfamiliar to the little girl, a quiet publicity fight was spreading between sects.

It is a violation of the rules to directly give an invitation for [Certification as a Saint] to Yurushia.

Because of that, many [Doubtful] religions that were unable to solicit in a decent way would come to these dusty places to try to persuade her four attendants.

"By the way, you mentioned an interesting thing."

This is not the first time that either Tina or Nia have been invited by dubious religions. There have been many cases of the non-proper sects doing [Various

Things] behind the Holy Kingdom's back. Those people have been becoming [Food] for the demons and vampires.

"Wh-what is it?"

Suddenly the atmosphere in the room changed, Ileo stepped back as he took a shallow breath, looking at the [Child] in front of him.

{... This girl... she isn't normal}

Ileo was onset by anxiety that had never come to his true identity; he immediately began speaking to try to leave that place.

"I'm very sorry, but I must-"

"The power of our lord, you wish to **use** it?"

She interrupted Ileo with a quiet anger in her voice; Ileo felt a pain as he turned his head towards the little girl who was only as old as his daughter.

"S-such a thing... excuse me, it seems I've been too hasty. I must say-"

Ileo began to speak more quickly, lowering his head to the girls and as he began to leave... he felt a strange presence.

"Are you going home...?"

"... Ah-"

The voice came from Nia, who had been in front of him just the moment before, but the voice came from behind. There was a black sword held against his neck.

Ileo recognized the presence the sword was putting out, greasy sweat dripping from his brow.

The crisis was felt by the man facing an insurmountable foe, his very soul instinctively afraid.

"Another interesting thing you were saying... summoning God..."

The girl who was too beautiful to be human began to float, wearing an [Inhuman] smile.

Ileo's teach began to chatter.

“Ileo-sama... Allow me to give you an [Invitation]. If you will, Nia.”

When Tia called Nia with her distorted smile, Nia raised her black demonic sword with a smile of her own.

“Open... [**Lost Eden**] ...”

All of a sudden, the old dust covered classroom was replaced by inky darkness.

It was not shadow, though. Ileo could see Tina and Nia with his eyes. The classroom was not surrounded by darkness. Rather, it was completely changed to another place.

Using Nia’s absorption and Noa’s release, a new world was created in this space.

“Welcome to our [**Lost Eden**]”

From the darkness, a boy in butler clothes called out from behind an ebony desk with a kind smile.

Ileo also knew him.

This butler boy was responsible for scheduling for the Duke’s daughter... Noa.

“... Ah... ah...”

“Are you unable to speak? People with weak souls can’t stand the magic here in [**Lost Eden**]”

Noa, who had just finished tidying up a series of documents, took off a set of silver rimmed glasses and walked forward.

Noa was a demon, but usually acted much like a human 11 year old, his appearance wearing glasses was rare. It would have made waves with the ladies at school if they ever found out.

“Good day, Noa. As busy as ever, I see.”

“... Do you think so, Tina?”

Noa let out a light sigh and dropped his eyebrows.

Tina was biased towards ability, her strengths best suited for battlefields and

she only cared about Yurushia's personal belongings. Nia, his sister, was biased towards waste, and while motivated, didn't have a skill that translated to work.

Fannie was fine and intelligent, but once she went out, she didn't come back easily.

That was why Noa was left doing all of the work. The least they could do is put their feelings towards their efforts.

"So... who is that person?"

"Apparently this is related to the things that Yurushia-sama has had Fannie and Milaine investigating, I found something interesting so I brought it to you."

"Huh..."

"....."

Seeing Ileo having thoughts of his likely death, Noa began to laugh.

Pachin When a bell sound came from Noa's raised finger, the world which had been inky [Black] changed into a huge black hall.

In the back of the hall was a jet black altar of worship to [God].

Kneeling by its side was a new species of [Greater Demon] created out of the vampires [Provided] by Millaine using Noa's [Control] of his [Release].

It took hundreds of bodies.

Even with its raw power alone, it was a fighting force comparable to a small country.

"Now, tell me everything you know and I will give you the honor of dedicating your soul to the [God] Yurushia."

As Noa whispered, the two girls and boy grew goat-like horns of jet black, the golden hair turned into snakes, and their forms changed into demons.

Demons were taking up residence in [**Lost Eden**]. The newly born Demon Realm began to quietly spread beneath the Holy Kingdom.

*

"Hey Fannie. Where did those three go?"

"Umm, they're making a secret base. Yurushia-sama, can I have some candy?"

"Yeah, go ahead, go ahead. Having a secret base seems a bit childish, though."

To Yurushia who did not know anything, today was embarrassingly peaceful.

Chapter 8: I Became a Second-Grader ①

The year changed, and the seasons rolled around, I have become a second-grader at the magic academy, and will be nine years old in a few months.

I'm in the same grade as a certain magic-cannon using girl. (Read: Mahou Shoujo Lyrical Nanoha.) I can't be called a little girl any longer.

..... Should I make a [Transformation] for myself too?

But, if I transformed into a so called magical girl, I'd be troubled about what to do about my [Second Transformation].

Well, although I'm attracted to the idea, putting that aside for the time being, my life as a second year student hasn't particularly changed much.

I go out to play with Shelly and Betty, having tea parties with them as always.

If I were to talk about things that were a little unusual, it would be that my classmates seem to finally have gotten used to me, and have finally reached the point where we exchange greetings.

..... I've suffered for almost two years for this.

Although I speak regularly with my attendants, and receive letters from them, it feels quite different for some reason.

Even if I ask Shelly to explain:

"Yuru-sama is so pretty that it's a crime"

Is the kind of incomprehensible thing that is repeated over and over, I still don't understand the truth of it.

Anyways, besides all that, the [Shitty brat Rick-chan] incidents seem to have settled down for the time being, as least on the surface.

Although I've been conscientious about it, since there was no special confession event my attitude hasn't changed, it might have just been my misunderstanding, after all.

... That rascal... playing with a maiden's feelings, how unforgivable.

But thank goodness that he didn't ask me... If I had gotten careless, there may have been a [Sore Baby] who would have misunderstand again. How dangerous, how dangerous.

Although I still feel a little depressed.....

"Yurushia"

As I dragging Tina to the salon with me to skip lessons, I was stopped by someone calling me without honorifics.

There was only one [Person] who would do those kinds of things in this school.

".....Rick."

Although Rick was basically a [Self-Important Bastard], who normally leaves his servants behind and rudely barges into things, these days, he's been rather different.

Looking like valiant warriors pulling a [Train] of chasing monsters, Rick was swarmed with waves and waves of girls.

Oh, it increased again.

.....It seems. I'm not angry at things like that.

I'm just a little resentful that even though he's still a brat, when he turned 12 years old and became a [Young Man], his height rapidly shot up to 170 cm, and now he's fully one head taller than I am.

"....."

"Yurushi..."

When Rick approached me, my face cramped momentarily and his feet stopped.

The girls who were following him around finally caught up to him. They were out of breath, but hearing Rick call out, they froze.

"...Roderick-nii-sama."

"...O, oh"

Everyone, what are you so afraid of? Although I know that I'm a dreaded person, the girls were all staring with their mouths open. Staring at their faces that were red like they were ill, I quivered softly at how strange they looked.

“.....How may I help you all?”

When I called out to the girls and turned my eyes towards them, it seems they were freed of their paralysis, and they all pulled back like the tide.

.....Eh? Was I that intimidating?

“Y-you, come here for a minute...”

“Eh...”

Rick grabbed my arm with a grim face, and began walking quickly, leaving the girls behind.

“...Again, with grabbing my arm...”

“Shut up”

What is it, already..... Tina, who usually makes a fuss about such things is being awfully quiet..... or so I thought, but Tina's face was cramped and she followed right behind us.

In the salon which only upper-class nobles could use, after confirming that there wasn't anyone else around, Rick looked into my eyes.

“Yurushia... you, why are you becoming more expressionless”

“.....Eh?”

Expressionless? Although Rick was used to [Me] and my face; because everyone else wasn't, were they afraid...? Hmm.....

Although I don't understand it well, I realised that I was acting [Inhuman], and so I rubbed my cheeks with a *munimuni* and took a deep breath and Rick gave a sigh of relief.

It is alright already? Looking at Tina, she was nodding her head *kokukoku* in relief too.

“.....At last, you returned to normal Yurushia.”

“...What kind of face does the ‘usual me’ have?”

“Aahh~ ... A sleepy face...?”

What the heck. Why is that a question?

“Have you been in a bad mood...?”

“.....I don’t understand”

I wonder what’s really the matter? Even I myself don’t know.

I see. That rather annoying but cute kid Rick became slightly cool, and he just became the kind of samurai kid that seduced girls. Yes.

“It’s because Rick has become a bad child.”

“What the heck!?”

Muuu... are you trying to feign ignorance?

“Haven’t you been walking around with a huge amount of girls?”

“I don’t know them! They appeared all by themselves. Ah~...”

“...?”

Although Rick got indignant, as I tilted my head to the side, his lips tightened up. I feel bad.

“By the way, Rick..... Can you release my arm soon?”

“.....”

Rick finally seems to have noticed that he’s been holding my arm this whole time.

Gripping it with all his strength..... This, might become a bruise. This guy is really overbearing, seriously.

“No, I have business with you. Come with me for a while.”

“Eh, what?”

Rick went directly into the nearby salon, and in the end, he still didn’t release my arm until we got inside.

Eh, could it be? Does he have some kind of restraint hobby.....?

*

In the salon, the sound of a piano being played quietly could be heard.

It was a relaxed melody that made me want to sleep, a tune that I liked.

“.....”

For some reason, I’m alone with Rick, listening to him play the piano.why.

The tea that I drank while sitting in the chair, was not brewed by me, but rather by him. I’m strangely annoyed that he’s so skilled at that.

Is it detestable? Is it detestable that I have this clumsy skill? I sulked.

Although since Tina, who was stuck outside the salon, is leaking out an intense bloodthirst, I wonder if it’s alright...

“...Don’t fall asleep, Yurushia.”

The music stopped suddenly, and Rick said something rude.

“.....I’m not sleeping.”

I was only slightly sleepy, you know.

Assured that I wasn’t sleeping, Rick smiled and parted from the piano, walking to me.

“Have you calmed down?”

“.....What?”

“.....”

Ahh~... I see. As I thought, when my mood is bad I have a scary face.

Although now I’m as calm as I am normally, my spirits don’t raise and lower as intensely as a human in the first place. Probably.

“...Ah, oh well. Leaving that aside, Yurushia. Did you know that there’s a new cathedral of the Kostoru religion in the Colto territory?”

Rick sat down lightly next to me with a sigh and finally got to the main subject.

“Cathedral...?”

"That's right. For this fifth cathedral in Tariterudo, the lord of the territory put up half of the construction budget."

Did the country properly budget..... Is that actually okay? Is it because it's the state religion? We don't enforce the separation of church and state, after all.

"What happened...?"

"No, nothing's happened as of yet.But either tomorrow or the next day, Honoured Uncle... Duke Verusenia thought of declaring Yurushia the Saint of the new generation and the [Princess] of the Holy Kingdom together with the new Archbishop and the lord over there, and he wants you to come."

".....Haah?"

What a way to ask..... how rough.

"So I go over, and then..... what am I supposed to do?"

"Weeeelll..... It seems likely that they want the residents of the territory to see your Holy Magic, for you to heal the seriously injured and sick and to preach to and recruit people for a long time.....It's quite unreasonable."

"Muuu..."

How detestable... and stupid. But,

"It's not for forever, is it? How long?"

"Although the other side hoped for a year, it's up to Yurushia's convenience. It's generally be around several weeks."

I'll of course I'd reject if it's a year, but what about several weeks?

I was a little interested in what he said, but then I saw Rick's face.

"If that's the case..... why are you telling me about this now, Rick?"

If that was the only thing, there'd be no need for Rick to bring me into the salon alone to talk. So what were the other reasons? As I gazed at him inquisitively, Rick looked strange.

"Uh, um, well It's because you're the daughter of a duke? More or less."

"Wha-, what"

"The Colto territory..... It's the territory of Duke Kaperu."

"A...Aah~"

The one with terrible relations with House Verusenia, House Kaperu.

"Sorry, I didn't think of that."

"....."

Rick's face became even more strange. ...I wonder if it's a face of resignation.

"Anyway. It seems that Honoured Uncle doesn't want you to go to such a place. However, as the matter concerns the nation, and it's a formal request for the [Princess], so you can't ignore them if they say that they want Yurushia to go."

"...Yeah"

It's suspicious that Duke Kaperu is calling for me specifically. But I can't refuse as I am the [Princess] and receive treatment like that of a member of the royal family. As part of the royal family, I can't just refuse them with the excuse that [It's Suspicious].

Well, that is entirely the fault of Grandfather-sama.

Moreover, if I heard correctly, the schedule matches when Father is going overseas on business exactly.

Wow..... how blatant. I'm getting a little excited now.

And the new [Archbishop] too

"Therefore, when Yurushia goes, I will as well."

".....Eh?"

Why is that.

"Uh, ehrm..... I'll probably be fine?"

"I know that Yurushia has more than enough [Power] to be called a Saint. But I think the danger is not towards your [Life] but rather your [Reputation] and your [Spirit]. If I go along with you, they will not be able to play their hand easily."

As a matter of fact, even if it is Duke Kaperu, I don't think that he would be so foolish as to aim for my life when I am so beloved by Grandfather-sama, His Majesty the King.

Therefore, as Rick said, it's quite likely that he's aiming at the [Reputation] and the [Honour] of House Verusenia, and intends to torment my [Heart].

Although, that is my favourite dish to serve.....

"....."

Rick went silent, and just stared at me with serious eyes.

If he said that I was in danger, then wouldn't Rick who would be protecting me be in danger too?

..... Because you look at me with such eyes, various girls have already started to misunderstand our relationship.

It can't be helped.....

Rick..... I will protect you.

Chapter 9: I became a Second-grader ②

Yurushia's classmates at the magic academy lived lives that wore down their nerves almost every day.

It started with the first years' entrance ceremony.

Already being called a [Saint] before entering school, the granddaughter of the King and also the daughter of a duke, she was the [Princess] that was the face of the kingdom.

Just hearing about such a god-like person would make them dizzy already, and the commoner students admired her regardless of their fear, while the nobles' children were all harshly warned not to make a blunder in front of her, and so everyone was nervous about learning alongside her.

Even the non-religious children adored her.

A child the same age as them who had a level of [Magic Power] that could make adults moan in admiration, that had [Beauty] that even adults were in awe of, it was an almost fairytale like story.

The day of the magic academy entrance ceremony.

Chaperoned by her parents, the Duke Verusenia and his wife, walking along like a [Princess], surrounded by her attendants and female escort knights, not only the new students but even the enrolled students were all captivated from that moment.

She was the very picture of a beautiful [Princess] from fairy tales that everyone had known as children.

Some whispered [Angel-sama], forgot to breathe in, and fainted on their feet.

Those who hadn't built up any resistance towards her was frozen for a little after she passed by. Finally, the teachers came out of their trance and started to induct the new students.

During the freshman representative's opening address, everyone let out a sigh of relief when they saw that Yurushia was having difficulty in making the

opening address from the embarrassment.

To see that that perfect [Princess] was also [Human], just like everyone else, made them all thank the gods inside their hearts.

But, it seems that [God] loved her especially.

Because the instant that she turned her compassionate eyes towards the students, an unthinkable amount of [Angels of Light] and [Archangels of light] manifested, and for the many people that were experiencing 【Greater Divine Protection】 for the first time, some of them became feverish while many others were traumatised.

The Princess is scary.

Although there were many different class groups, since students went to different classes to take their lessons the division between classes didn't mean anything except for who the home room teacher would be for that group.

But since the lower grades have mostly general level lessons in their curriculum for every class, Yurushia's classmates inevitably spent a lot of time with her.

Those classmates were able to get used to Yurushia's beauty relatively quickly.

Yurushia had the cold beauty of a doll, but on the inside, she was considerably [Gentle], so it was possible for them to keep calm as long as they didn't look straight at her.

After that, her [Form of Address] was the next hindrance.

There was no way that a commoner could simply call out to the daughter of a Ducal house, and though the noble daughters and sons tried their best to speak to her, but the two servants who were in the same class would keep a watchful eye over them.

Anyone who tried to get close to Yurushia were glared at by the two girls like they were insects and were silently [Intimidated] away.

Although a few super M people blushed under their gazes, those types were rare, so the majority of the class was unable to even talk to her.

There were still some times where Yurushia would come to class alone.

As the classmates, who had gotten used to Yurushia were calling her [Princess-sama] behind her back, and exchanged looks with one another, [He] appeared.

Yurushia's cousin, the Second Prince Roderick, came to visit her often.

When that happened, it became hard to talk to her in a different sense.

Although Yurushia calls him [Elder Brother], the two of them weren't brother and sister.

Seeing the good looking [Prince-sama] and [Princess-sama] together was exactly like witnessing a scene out of a fairytale, the female students all writhed about going *kyaa kyaa* in delight.

Their delusions had progressed to the point that the boy that the girl called [Brother], didn't treat her as a [Sister] but rather as a [Woman].

Although they wanted to speak, they couldn't, as they were overwhelmed by Yurushia's sheer [Presence] in the classroom. Since they couldn't invest themselves into their lessons, to keep up their grades and stay the classmates of the [Princess-sama], they cut into their sleeping times to study.

More challenges awaited those classmates.

At first they were delighted. After the trauma that was planted in them at the entrance ceremony unintentionally and automatically, the [Fear] of Yurushia had gradually relaxed.

Like the people around her, she too was pleased that they had finally reached that stage, but realised that it was a mistake.

Although it was a story that only she knew, but she recalled the time when she was only two years old.

That she would be [A beautiful flower at 10 years old].....

The root of others' [Fear] of Yurushia was the sheer [Presence] that came from her huge Demon's magical power, rather than from her status or title.

That [Fear] came from Disparity.

Overwhelming beauty and force of presence packed in her intense gaze, all stuffed into an adorable infant, it was way too unnatural.

To put it in an extreme way, it would be like an infant showing off an adult style kitchen knife to cook in the park.

As she approached nine years old, she had grown taller, and her body had also taken on a soft roundness, transforming from a child into a [Young Lady]. The unnaturalness started to fade, and in place of the [Fearsome] appearance was a dazzling [Beauty].

It wasn't her friends or family that felt the [Change] in Yurushia first, but rather her classmates.

They wanted to speak to her, but couldn't..... The reason was different from before, though.

Thanks to the easing of the fear, they could exchange greetings with her, but they couldn't continue on from there.

They would return her greetings, but their faces would flush when they saw her smile and their heartbeats would quicken and that would spell the end of the conversation.

She could never figure out how her classmates were thinking.

Before they could get used to it, they had already been [Fascinated] by her very existence.

She would be nine years old soon.

More beautiful than the year before, and would be more beautiful the next.

There were eight years until she graduated from the academy. Her classmates would all spend their days in these hard, painful, and yet [Sweet] days.

So they thought.

By that time... they hoped that they could be friends with the [Princess-sama].

Chapter 10: I turned Nine years old ①

I turned nine years old the other day.

This time round, the birthday party was rather light. The reason being that I wasn't in a very good condition.

When I say light, what I mean is that while the scale of the party was still the same, the amount of time that I had to show myself decreased. Honestly speaking, I was saved by the fact that I was unwell.

Recently, the number of people who are afraid of me seems to have decreased. Although I'm glad about that, the people that came to greet me wouldn't go home without a fight. Their eyes were scary.

“Owowowowowow.....”

In the stale-smelling house in the royal capital, when I stood up from the chair with a [Heave-ho], Vio and the housemaid gang looked at me in disappointment.

“Princess Yuru-sama.....”

“It can't be helped..... it hurts.”

Since I've been pampered for my entire childhood, I have no pain tolerance whatsoever.

When I soaked into the bathtub, I would groan with a [U~i~].

Right now, my leg is hurt. It fell asleep in the middle of the night. Also, it hurts in the parts I can't mention. They've started to grow, recently.

Well, they've been lighter since a few months ago, but still, these growing pains...

Don't those usually only happen in middle school? I've grown about 5 centimetres in half a year alone, rounding my height to approximately 150 cm, which is about as tall as Betty, who's two grades older.

Although, Rick also shot up suddenly before his time, maybe it's something in

the constitution of the royal bloodline? While I yearn to be a tall girl, growing bigger than Father-sama would be unpleasant...

Because of that, my appearance has changed a bit.

Talking about the changes, my infant's figure and pudgy stomach seem to have receded somewhat, and here and there I've rounded out and filled out, according to Vio and the housemaids' words, it's a complete shift in image.

Mother and Grandma have also stopped dressing me in children's clothes and have begun to order dresses with adult designs... If they make it now won't my size have changed by the time they finish?

In addition, Tina's been giving me a carnivorous look every now and then. It's scary.

"Too early."

Today, I'm going on an inspection of the Touru territory together with Father. but my legs still hurt, so I've been hugging him while riding the carriage. After getting onto Father-sama's knee after a long while, he said this to me:

"Is something the matter...?"

Because I've gotten bigger and it's gotten hard to hold me, when I wrapped my arms around Father-sama's neck he gave me a worried expression.

Whenever I ride on his lap, our lines of sight are almost the same, so I was happy that I could look at his face so closely.

"Oh... I think it's still a bit too early for Yurushia to be wearing that dress.,"

".....Really?"

The dress I'm wearing today was the first adult style dress that I received from Mother.

Unlike the dresses from the parties, it isn't stuffy. It's a rose-coloured dress that comes up to my calves, with a chic blouse and a fluffily cute skirt. It's a favorite of mine.....

Father-sama quickly lowered his gaze from mine.

"Your neck is showing..."

“Yup.”

That’s true.

It’s silly that I hadn’t noticed until now.

Although I thought that the dress I’d been wearing up until now was for all children’s use, but apparently, it was actually a habit for a [Saint]. (TLN: habit as in “nun’s habit”)

After all, the sleeves went all the way to my wrists, and everything below my chin was covered. It was a dress that only exposed the hands and face.

The sleeves are the same as before, but this dress exposes the base of my neck. For the first time, a little bit of my collarbone can be seen. The collarbone is the foundation of eroticism.

“Father..... isn’t that too overprotective? Shelly’s arms are fully showing.”

“No, no, Yurushia is still only nine years old.”

But only my collarbone can be seen...Betty came to this year’s birthday party with a shoulderless dress that exposed her shoulders entirely, to say nothing of her collarbone.

Yes, that was sexy but cute.

Still, Father is still as dashingly handsome as ever.

Now in his mid-thirties, his sex appeal is more polished than ever, I can say that after ten years it’s definitely an outstanding talent.

But please take care of your hair. I still have a mountain of dried seaweed.

Incidentally, about the massive amount of seaweed that I pushed onto Millaine, she seems to have sold it in the form of seaweed bread and it’s become a special product of that city..... despite it being in the mountains.

I’ll have to get the vampires to teach me how to make the seaweed bread..... I’ve done nothing wrong. Nothing.

Millaine’s earnestness makes this Demon’s conscience hurt.....

“.....Yurushia”

Father-sama pulled me back from my dreamy thoughts about the seaweed bread with a serious voice.

“What’s the matter...?”

Although I thought I knew what he was going to talk about, since I’m a nine-year-old girl I tilted my head with a quizzical look.

Father-sama patiently stared into my eyes, then he gave a small sigh and began to speak.

“This year, in two months... Well, next year, Yurushia will become a third year student.”

“...Yes”

“Although you’ve been quite a small child all this time, you’re completely a lady now...”

“That...”

Even though I’m going to be an adult, I like to be spoiled, but then Father suddenly said something that sounded like I was about to be married away.....

As a noble child, am I supposed to be happy to be treated like an adult? In this country... or rather in this world, people are so serious.

Why then, are there so many hopeless people around me.....

“Yurushia...”

“Ah, yes?”

“You don’t have to force yourself to go to the Colts Territory.”

“.....”

Ah, the expected topic.

Since the word came, Father-sama has been negotiating directly with Grandfather... although for various reasons Grandfather and Uncle privately wanted to refuse, since it was an official request from Duke Kaperu and the Kostoru religion, refusing would show that the Royal Family was over favoring Duke Verusenia.

In short, it's because Grandfather-sama recognised me as a [Princess] for the sake of being able to pamper me.....

The duration of the post in the Kostoru cathedral in the Colts territory is one month.

Coincidentally in the same period, there was a request from the [Military Branch of Taterudo] that had close ties with Duke Kapell for Father-sama to attend a ceremony.

It's so obvious, it's surprising.

In this situation, if I said that I didn't want to go, then it would mean that Father-sama would have to take responsibility for it.

If such a thing happened then he would likely lose his job as the Foreign Minister and the trade operations of the Verusenia house might have restrictions put into place.

Above all that, it would probably reach the point that the people affiliated with Duke Kaperu would persistently backbite Father-sama at the parties or dances.

Even if he had to endure all that, Father-sama still wanted to protect me.

But.....

"It's alright, Father. I'm strong, you know."

I let out a light laugh and smiled without worry.

To be honest, if Father had to suffer like that, I would crush the Kaperu house. Extremely violently.

".....Yurushia. I'm worried for you."

"Father..."

I put my tiny hand on his big one on my cheek.

"I don't think Duke Kaperu will be so stupid as to directly attack me. Besides, Rick is coming along."

Although I personally felt dicey over it, I used Rick's name to soothe Father.

Although I preferred it if an [Adult with Status] came along as my breakwater, the other ducal houses just looked on, trying to avoid being rolled into the quarrel, and since I liked Uncle-sama and Elea-sama, it could be said that Rick has just enough.

But Father-sama, far from being relieved when Rick's name came out, grimaced.

"Is that so..... Does Rick really understand and get along with you so well...?"

".....Eh?"

Wha-why do you look like that...?

"Wh-what's wrong, Father-sama?"

"Rick is a good boy, and I can understand how he would be so engrossed with Yurushia."

"Fa~ther~"

Why are your words going in that strange direction?

"Yurushia, I worry for you. Your beauty gathers various men around you like starving carnivores. Even now, the proposals from within the country and other countries haven't slowed down..."

"Eeeh!?"

This is the first time I've heard that, Father.

Wait a minute. Weren't we talking about being afraid for me because I might be getting tormented by Duke Kaperu or that there might be dangers to my life?

Although I knew about the marriage proposals that had been coming from within, this is the first time that I've heard that marriage proposals have been coming from outside the country, too. Has Father been smothering those?

"Although Duke Kaperu himself doesn't have a very good character, I've heard that his sons are rather upright and that they were handsome. They might also forget themselves in Yurushia's beauty and try to seek your hand in marriage. It seems that many other noble houses will try to introduce their

sons, too. That being said, it doesn't mean that Rick going is good. Timothy hasn't decided on his fiancee, and there have been rumours that he is waiting for Yurushia to come of age, and I worry about that....."

".....Eeehh~..."

What in the world. Were you this sort of extreme doting parent?

Although I didn't want to let myself get married easily, it seems that if I just leave it be I will never be married.

Is my body safe...? While I was thinking of how all those people were turning their scornful eyes towards me with such feelings, Father, who noticed that my feelings were running out of control coughed lightly with a *kohon*.

"I have entrusted Yurushia's safety to captain Barnabas whom you know. Although he was a baronet, thanks to his distinguished services I awarded him the title of viscount. I think that him holding my letter of authority should also serve for him to be a sort of barrier."

"Re-really...?"

Ba, Baru...? Who was that again? Well, I guess I'll remember when we meet.

But, to award a viscount title just for the sake of protecting me... I'm convinced. Although I thought he wasn't the same as them, after this sort of scene, it's clear that him and Grandfather are parent and child.

While I was thinking of such things earnestly, Father-sama put cotton on my forehead.

"I also know that Yurushia is a stronger child than you look. Both Riastea and I believe that you will come back safely,"

"Yes... Father."

Believe... You believe in me.

Although I think that my parents impression of [Strong Child] and mine were significantly different, I will crush anybody that dares to show malice to me. Violently.

Two months later, as I advanced into being a third-grader, I left for the Colts

Territory.

There, I would [Reunite] with a certain someone.

Chapter 11: I turned Nine Years Old ②

There was a clatter.

“ “ “ ” ” ”

How did this happen?

I am currently in a carriage headed towards the Colts territory.

As I headed towards the Colts territory at the request of Duke Kaperu and the Archbishop, I was surrounded by my attendants and guards.

As always, I was with Bree-chan's 15 female knight corps members, my four attendants, 10 house maids that Mother-sama arranged, including Vio, 8 of Rick's royal maids, 18 of the elite royal guards that, including the Holy Knights, numbered 18, three civil officials, and finally, 20 mercenaries from the company Father-sama arranged for. Because Rickif part of the royal family, there's this size of a retinue even for moving inside of the country.

And that Ba— Bar..... something or another, was actually Bear-san.

It was Bear-san that Father-sama had forced the rank of [Viscount] upon unreasonably with his status, but while putting on a troubled face that said "It can't be helped", Bear-san cheerfully took up being my guard.

At some point, it seems that Bear-san, who is single, adopted Noel-kun as his son.

How nice of Bear-san. I wonder if I can talk carefreely with Noel now? When I gave him the wakame seaweed as a reward, I suffered from the gurgling noises they made through the night after drinking.

And thus the tragedy repeats itself.....

Normally, while travelling in a carriage that held ten people, I would be riding with my attendants, but because this time round there's an issue with my [Dignity], the attendants were placed in other carriages while only Vio sat anxiously across from me.

I'm jealous of them.

“ “ “ ” ” ”

The silence is heavy.....

There were two boys sitting next to me. Rick on my right. Noel on my left.

The two of them were silent, with Rick gripping my right arm, and Noel holding my left hand.

How did this happen...?

“ ”

I sent a look to appeal to Vio, but for some reason Vio was troubled and turned eyes that were filled with encouragement towards me, nodding many times as if saying [I know].

That's not it... That's really not it. Really, save me from this situation by any means.

Things were normal until Bear-san who's now a Viscount introduced Noel to Rick.

Because Rick was 12 years old and Noel was 11 years old, they could be friends... or so I thought.

Now then, the flashback scene.

“Nice to meet you, Your Highness Roderick. I'm Noel.”

“Is that so? I know of Barnabas' great fame. I was told that the Viscount's son had excellent sword skills that surpassed that of a Holy Knight, are you really strong, Noel?”

“It is because I am undergoing training..... In a mercenary company, we are trained in the heat of battle.”

“I see. Since our ages are close, during this journey, would you mind having a spar with me? I hope you will consider enlightening me in the sword...”

“Is that true? I've heard that Your Highness Roderick's sword technique is as good as that of a knight's, so I thought I should be the one to ask.”

Then the two of them laughed and shook hands.

Things like the friendship between young boys is healing. Although Bree-chan was holding her nose and crouching down, did something happen to her?

And the maids were chittering noisily like cicadas.

When I peeked my face out to take a look, for some reason the atmosphere had changed.

“...Lucy!”

Noel who leaped out like a faithful dog rapidly grabbed onto my hands.

Since Bear-san got angry before, is it okay to do that now? I wonder if Noel also became a noble, so it's okay?

“It's been a while, Noel..... You've gotten bigger.”

“Lucy... You've become more beautiful.”

Saying such a thing so lightly again..... Noel has also grown to about 160cm tall, and since he was good-looking and cute, the maids made a commotion again.

Unlike what I remembered from the Dream World, boys here praise me without hesitation.

“Yurushia!”

Rick who had been dazed for a moment remembered himself and rudely cut in again, grabbing my arm as usual.

“Let's go.”

“Where!? Wait, Roderick-onii-sama, it hurts”

When Rick tried to walk out while holding my arm as usual, I got pulled to the other side.

“Your Highness..... Lucy is in pain.”

Noel clasped my left hand firmly, staring at Rick while speaking in a low voice.

““.....””

The two of them stared at each other in silence.

Even though it had been harmonious so far, why did it become this way? ...

Why, eh, I'm not going to play dumb anymore.

Even though they're being misled by their feelings of love, Rick is thinking of me as his [Younger Sister] while Noel is longing for me as the [Saint-sama].

As a girl, it feels a little bit disappointing, but favor is favor. It seems that both of them are strongly possessive, though.

The one who truly loved me should let me go..... although that sort of story exists, if I said it here I would surely be given disappointed looks.

The ones that were happiest were the maids and the female knights. Under Bree-chan's feet, there was a dark red puddle, while Sara-chan was repeatedly chopping at the back of Bree-chan's head, was she possessed or something?

Flashback end...

Afterwards Bear-san, taking us into consideration, put us three on the same carriage, but that's no good. Please don't take their needs into consideration, please pay attention to mine instead.

" " " " "

It's hopeless, I can't say anything. I can't say "Let go of my hand." Well, I understand that both of them are worried for me, which is why they're gripping my hands.....

But... what are you two worried about? Both of you are acting like children.

Four days have passed on the carriage from the Royal Capital to the Colts territory.....

It seems like the atmosphere inside the carriage would be like this until we arrived. At night, the two of them had had their sparring bouts with each other, as promised, but the scene seemed like they were strangely fired up in their practice together.

I didn't know for sure, since I was sleeping.

* * *

Everyone around me had complained about my going to the Colts territory so much that my stomach hurt, but actually arriving was a joy.

The joy from being released from that room was so terrific that even I even happily talked for 30 minutes with Duke Kaperu, who came to sarcastically receive us while wearing a bright smile, I'm sure you can understand.

I decided to attend the evening party on the same day that I arrived.

It's ostensibly a welcoming party. Because we children had just had a several-day journey to reach this place, normally we would be resting today with the knights and civil officials, but since I was willing to accept the invitation, Duke Kaperu was even more astonished.

Please forgive this weak Demon for being unable to withstand that strained atmosphere.

“ “ “ ” ” ”

When I attended the evening ball, many people came to give their greetings, but stuck as I was between Rick who was in an ill mood and Noel who was emitting a bloodthirst, most of them backed away in a hurry.

Even though they're not holding my hands, the situation didn't change..... Ah, “Duke Kaperu.”

As I spotted Duke Kaperu, who was pretending not to notice me, I pushed through the gap between the two boys and approached Duke Kaperu with a wide smile on my face.

“Th-there you are, Miss Yurushia, are you enjoying yourself...?”

“Thank you for holding such a grand evening ball for a child like me.”

At my polite words, Duke Kaperu's face cramped slightly. Rude.

“.....I see. It must have been difficult for Duke Verusenia to send his only daughter here, Miss Yurushia..”

“Well, understandably so. Since it was the King's order, I can't really ignore it, please don't feel down, Duke Kaperu.”

“...I-Is that so, how terrible..... Then, Miss Yurushia, your [Princess] title must weigh heavily on you...”

“I was only four years old when it was decided, but most of the knights

approved it, so before I knew anything else, it had been decided. Did the other ducal houses' daughters not protest it?"

"That is a blood issue... Th-that's right, doesn't the [Saint] title weigh heavily on you? I heard that when Miss Yurushia was kidnapped along with many children."

"Roderick-onii-sama and Noel were among the children who had been kidnapped. If you would like to hear to story, shall I call them over?"

"N-no, that's alright. So then... are you really capable of using Holy Magic at the level of a [Saint] like they say you can? Naturally, you're able to use 【Blessing】...?"

"Oh, would you like to see? I'll do it, okay? I'll be using the higher-grade 【Feast of Blessings】. Although I think that an 【Archangel of Light】 might appear, I don't think there's be as much [Damage] as last time."

"Eh!? No, please stop, ... ex, excuse me, I just remembered I have something urgent to deal with."

"Is that so..."

For some reason, Duke Kaperu seemed to rapidly distance himself from me after that cute exchange with his cheeky words.

I didn't think much, and just returned all of it to the sender..... It's a failure. I wanted to reply more to his muddled sarcasm and to investigate how much his [Soul] had matured for harvesting.....

Because I was mentally exhausted, I wanted to 'use' Duke Kaperu to refresh myself.

After that, since I made those two worry with my disappearance, I was tightly surrounded once again.

*

"...[Let there be Light]..."

I cast Holy Magic on the obviously-heavily-injured child that had been carried into the cathedral.

But to be injured so badly that the child's body is wrapped entirely with bandages... That's not it. It might be because of some terrible disease, or possibly a [Curse] from being careless.

After all, [Curses] exist in this world.

Although most cases involved 【Demons】, it was also possible to be cursed with normal magic. Most of them come from [Traps]. Treasure chests, tools, and other items that would trigger traps if anyone but the maker used it. They're particularly troublesome, since they can activate even after the maker has died.

As for this child, I don't know whether it's disease or a curse, but 【Healing】 didn't seem to have any effect, so I used my original magic.

The image I used, was an item that I'd never used before in my games, the 【Last Elixir】.

Because it wasn't an item that would be depleted after use, it's something that could be used on a poor commoner could use, but with an effect that powerful.

And in the blink of an eye, the child's injury scars faded, and not even a single sign of disease remained.

Because I didn't want it to spread, I also spread the spell to the mother and the surrounding priests. Since this world's cosmetic surgery is terrible, I'll restore that, too.

"Thank you very much, oh Saint!"

"Nee-chan, thank you~"

No need, no need, you're welcome. Although the small boy doesn't seem to understand it very well, the mother is so happy that she's shedding tears of joy.

"...Ah, about the offering..."

Ah, right, there was that.

While wiping away her tears, the mother cowered a little, probably thinking that she needed to pay a large tithe.

Even if it is called a place of worship, what we're doing is the same as a hospital, so even though it's called an offering the value is fixed.

If it was a fracture, the going rate is around 30% of their monthly salary, but when it comes to the Holy magic that I used, it's about the same level as the cost of several months' worth of hospitalisation in an intensive care unit that I remembered from the dream world, so I could only speculate.

"Let's leave it to the will of God..."

After saying that, one of the middle-aged priests brought over a paper that looked like an invoice.

Glancing at it, the amount written could buy me many sets of dresses.

"Tei~"

"DoaaAAAAAAAAAAAAAA!?"

After quickly poking his forehead in a tsukkomi (read: straight-man comedy act, classic Japanese comedy), and sending the middle-aged priest flying several meters, I smiled at the mother and child.

"I am still in training. You don't need to tithe."

"B, bb-b-b-b-but"

Crap, they got scared. that's okay, though, it's normal.

"Although this is a church, the magic that I used is a magic of my own making that I created during my training, so to make an offering now would be an insult to God's will."

Right? ... After I looked around with an [Intimidating] glare at the surrounding church officials, all of them averted their gazes wonderfully. ... Wait, please don't avert your gaze too, mother-san.

"Okaa-san, cake ..."

"Wait, wait a moment, please stay quiet for a bit."

Is the child hungry? They're looking for sweets in the mother's bag. That child, doing as they pleased ... the child handed me the sweets that they found.

"Onee-chan, here~"

"Oh my, can I have it?"

"Mmm"

"Fufufu, I will receive your wonderful [Offering]."

Not to mention, the money can be withdrawn from Duke Kaperu {who has plenty of it}.

As the priests looked at me with fear in their eyes, the mother took her child, who was waving and smiling happily at me, and went home.

Something from this might find its way to Duke Kaperu, but honestly I've got no issue with that, especially since I wanted him to get agitated and come after me.

Also.....

"....."

The sweet that was given to me..... It's unusual ... and I'm not making a bad joke here.

I don't know why, but it seems that that child's [Feelings]...? Hmm, there seems to be something that feels like a bit of a [Soul] inside of it.

Perhaps it's not a tithe to the church, but rather an [Offering] to me?

Chapter 12: I turned Nine Years Old ③

“...Yu-Yurushia-sama”

Although I was disturbed from my good mood, since my mood had been so good, I greeted the owner of the voice with a smile anyways.

“Ah, it’s Archbishop Callisto, how may I help you?”

How did he, who was previously the Archbishop of the church in the neighbouring country Shiguresu, become the archbishop here... well, I wasn’t surprised. He said he’d be coming to Taterudo, so I wasn’t surprised when I heard that Archbishop was calling for me.

“That thing before, about your changing the offering... well...”

As I steadily smiled at him, he stopped talking.

“Don’t worry about it.”

“...Yes”

How weak. I’m worried that this Archbishop won’t be able to make a living like this.

And, Callisto..... although he was trembling with fear, when he met my eyes, he blushed a bit. I felt disgusted for a moment.

Ever since I started growing, my [Intimidation] hasn’t been very stable...

“So, that Holy magic that you used just now, how much magical power does it use?”

“Magical power...?”

How much? Maybe if the magic power expenditure is huge, there was supposed to be an equal tithe?

“Hmm, well... It’s about three times the cost of a 【Feast of Blessings】.”

“.....”

Callisto’s eyes went wide and he stared at me. Well, it’s alright. It’s the kind of

magic that only the pope should be able to use.

“That... that much magical power.....”

As Callisto squeezed out the words, he lowered his head as if deciding something.

“There is a ceremony asking for Yurushia-sama.”

“What is that, I wonder...?”

“We would like for you to use your great magical power in the service of God. We will do my very best to repay you. We will try our best to accommodate you, so please.”

“.....”

It's too suspicious.....

“It is to be done in the old castle owned by Duke Kapell in the suburbs, and as for the guards, I have left the [Hero]in charge of security, so it's safe.”

“.....I see.”

Although it's a failure of a presentation, I'm interested.

Besides, if they could arbitrarily conduct such a dubious ceremony in a place where I couldn't see, then I'd be worried anyways.

I've understood from our investigations that the Daemons might be involved.

But I don't know if Callisto and the [Hero] have any relation to the Daemons.....

“Very well. I will help you.”

“Ooohhh, thank you so much Yurushia-sama. I will guide you.”

If possible, I'd like to crush it on the spot.

Besides, since my sister-samas are in the hero's party, let's check on how much they've matured in this long absence.

* * *

“Lucy..... do you really believe that Archbishop Callisto's words?”

"I have never heard of Callisto. If he was capable enough to have become an archbishop, it's nearly impossible for me not to have heard of him."

Even though I didn't want to talk about it at all, after hearing that I had been given a request by Callisto, Rick and Noel said those sorts of things.

"As a citizen of the Holy Kingdom, should you really be doubting an archbishop of the state religion?"

Although I know what's behind him, I glossed over it because I would be troubled if they opposed me now.

"Princess Yuru-sama, I am also against it."

"...Vio"

While walking from the cathedral to the carriage, I stopped when Vio spoke up.

Because we can't bring all the members of the guardian knights into the town, today the guards are about half-strength.

Still, of the knights that Rick brought, three of them came from the [Holy Knights] that were the primary force of the Holy Kingdom, and I also only took the elite of my guardian knights like Bree-chan and Sara-chan.

Although we brought various people from the mercenary company like Noel and Bear-san, Vio still seems to be uneasy about our war potential.....

"Rick, Noel, could you all go to the carriage first?"

"I want to know what's going on first before I move,"

"Understood. Let's go then, Your Highness."

"Oi, Noel."

Noel who heard something in my voice dragged the reluctant Rick away.

..... they're unexpectedly chummy.

There was still Bree-chan and gang, but my attendants read the mood and soon everyone else had left.

"Vio... now that you mention it, you used to hate the church, right?"

“.....Your memory’s unexpectedly good. It was when you were two, I think.”

“It was Vio’s family...”

At my words, Vio was surprised, but smiled gently at me.

“What happened... may I ask?”

“Will you reconsider if I tell you my story...?”

Vio was a little anxious... so I looked her straight in the eyes and answered honestly.

“U~n, if I don’t know I can’t understand.”

When I said such, Vio smiled a little bitterly and let out a light chuckle.

“Princess Yuru-sama. I think I’ve talked to Ria-sama about this in the past, do you remember?”

“Yeah, I remember.”

Vio was Mother’s junior in school, and when when her family was in decline and she fell behind on her studies, Mother helped her.

“Just like Yuru-sama, I was able to use Holy Magic at a young age. Besides my capacity for water and wind magic, because my magical power was high, I caught the attention of the church and they attempted to woo me many a time.”

“Is that so...”

I can understand that a little.

“At the time, I was being constantly solicited by a priest but after I refused him because I was helping out my family’s business, nasty rumors began to circulate..... I was too young at the time, so I can’t tell you any concrete details of what happened but Ria-sama, who was close to Archbishop Molt, helped get that priest excommunicated. After that, the malicious rumors died off.”

“What happened to that priest...?”

“Apparently, there was an effort to protect church members, so I heard that he had been handed over to the neighbouring country, Shiguresu, without being deprived of his priesthood.”

That makes it nearly impossible for me to believe in the church.....

“His name... do you know it?”

Although my voice sounded slightly disgusted, Vio hesitated a little bit before she lost to my gaze and said the name.

“Although my memory might be a bit faulty, but I’m sure..... it was Cristor”
(TL: Callistoru in engrish) “Hmmm...”

It seems that my mouth has spontaneously curled into a smile.

It’s probably... not the kind of smile a decent [Human Being] would make.
Vio’s face somewhat scrunched a little.

“Well then, shall we go?”

“Princess Yuru-sama!?”

“Did you think I would back down after hearing such a tale...?”

“.....”

Although I won’t say it’s malicious, I prioritized my own thoughts like a selfish egoistic bad child, and personally, it’d be Demon-like to ignore it and give up.

Vio gave up and sighed visibly, waiting for my orders.

“Vio. I will investigate this nest of parasites leeching our Holy Kingdom. Let’s go.”

“..... Yes.”

Vio has known me ever since I was born. She is my family.

Let’s get rid of this stone in her heart.

When this is over..... well, we’ll gradually find her a husband.

* * *

A few hours passed as I was bumped about on the carriage. Following the lead of Callisto’s carriage, we arrived at the ancient castle owned by Duke Kapell.

On the carriage, I got sandwiched between Rick and Noel again, both my hands were held but the expressions on the two’s faces were super serious to

the point that I was starting to seriously get worried, enough that I was letting off a bit of [Intimidation] without meaning to.

.....Are they worried that I'm in danger?

Surrounding the old castle were beautiful forests and lakes, but the castle itself was full of weeds and poorly maintained, in a state of ruin.

"Now, Yurushia-sama, come this way!"

"... Got it"

Callisto who was awfully lively, led us on with a few priests in tow.

Rick walked next to me, while Noel walked several steps behind me, directing the mercenaries into formation.

"....."

It seems like everyone's being very serious.....

"Yurushia-sama."

As I was being guided into the banquet hall of the old castle, someone called out my name.

Can I even call it a banquet hall at this point? Where previously one would hold ballroom parties, there are now various types of magic formations positioned about the room.

Slipping through the not-insignificant amount of priests and officials, a young man ran up to us with short steps and called out to us.

"Aah, my beautiful Princess, it's been a long time."

".....That's true, Alfio-sama."

He came out, the Hero {lol} Alfio-kun.

"Oooohhh, you've become even more beautiful in the past year. Please give this Al the honor of kissing your hand..."

Are you dangerously ill? With a face that was incomparably redder than last time and his rough breathing, Alfio tried to take my hand, but Rick and Noel interrupted him immediately.

"I am Roderick of Taterudo. Dear sir, did you forget your manners?"

"....."

As expected of the name of the grandson of Taterudo's King, Alfio immediately withdrew with a slightly crooked face, and bowed to Rick.

"...I'm sorry. But I am neither a noble, nor a citizen of this country..."

Wow... that attitude is disgusting. He's probably really confident in his strength. However, as one would expect of this kind of disrespect, one of the Holy Knights put a hand onto his sword, Rick stopped him with a raised hand, though.

"And your name is?"

"...I am called the Hero of Shiguresu, Alfio."

"I see. I *haven't heard anything* of you from my aunt, who is part of the Shiguresu royalty, but, nevermind that. You may return to your duties."

"tsch. well then, excuse me."

As Alfio went back on the road he came with a black face, the rest of the hero party rejoined him with worried faces.

Among them were my elder sister-samas, and Athena was glaring daggers at me with a horrible look, but when I waved at her with a full-faced smile, she averted her gaze with a start.

What a fantastic reaction, elder sister-sama.

Regardless of what other people called him, unless he was a [Hero] that had been approved by the state, he was the same as an arrogant self-proclaimed 'hero' of a foreign country. I'm in the same situation, though.

As Alfio disappeared, Rick turned around and exchanged a look with Noel for an instant, then the two of them instantly went back to sandwiching me.

What was that..... that exchange just then?

Although the atmosphere had been strained just a while ago, they seem to have come to an understanding. I don't understand the relationships of boys.

"Yurushia. I say, you shouldn't let such a suspicious character get close to you

so easily.”

“... Yeah, sorry. But isn’t it unusual to hear you say these kinds of things, Rick? You’re totally a “Prince-sama”, after all.”

“.....Was that what you thought of me?”

While making an astounded face, Rick flushed a little and tapped my head softly.

Although it didn’t hurt, when I puffed up my cheeks and rubbed my head with a little indignation, Noel lightly stroked my head, only to retract his hand in panic when I turned to look at him, his cheeks flushing red.

Rick and Noel were really cute.....

I’m getting worried that Bree-chan will be possessed by the [Degenerate God] again, though.

Proceeding into the banquet hall, Duke Kapell was talking to some researcher-like people.

As expected, he couldn’t ignore the amount of people coming in, and while he averted his gaze from mine when our eyes met, he couldn’t ignore Rick, and came over from the other side.

“Oh my oh my, it’s Roderick-sama. I apologise for not receiving you.”

“It doesn’t matter. Incidentally, what is this facility?”

As Rick probed him with a slightly interrogative tone, Duke Kapell grinned from ear to ear.

“Well, this is a temple for summoning the [Retainers] of Goddess Kostoru.”

“A temple.....? You mean to say that you intend to summon a god?”

“That is the end goal. First, if we can summon the kin of a god to let the world know that God truly exists in this world, then Taterudo will become a true Holy Kingdom, a magnificent country with a true God.

“.....”

That is, if God actually exists..... By the way, it feels like I’m being ignored, is it just me?

“Duke Kapell...?”

When I spoke, Duke Kapell’s shoulders gave a start.

..... Why is he so skittish?

“Yu-Princess Yurushia, I heard from Callisto that you could help us with your wonderful magical power...”

“You did not hear incorrectly. Incidentally, I am learning summoning magic at the magic academy, so I’d like it very much if I could see that summoning formation by all means.”

“Well... that, it’s not ready yet, so... to begin with, how about a meal first? I will have it prepared by then.”

“Really?”

I know that it takes time to draw up the summoning formation, so to prepare it in the time it would take for a meal, I wonder what the teachers at the academy would say?

But since Duke Kapell looks like he’s having a [Connipition Fit] right now, I guess I’ll accept it.

“Well then, I will be imposing on your kindness.”

“Really. Then..... the dining hall here isn’t very big, so how about we have just the young people alone, along with Princess Yurushia’s attendants? I will be entertaining everyone else in a separate room.

The young people...? It’s just Rick, Noel and I. Well, that and my 4 attendants. To not have Bear-san, who’s a Viscount, with us, Duke Kapell sure is bold.

Although Rick and Noel both had their suspicions about it, since we had no reason to refuse, I accepted it with a sullen face.

Sorry..... the two of you.

What is Duke Kapell plotting, that he’s in such a good mood despite his sweating?

Was he getting impatient, or was everything going according to plan.....

I wonder what he’ll show me from here on in?

Chapter 13: Unleashed ①

“Now, please, come take a seat.”

The dining hall that we were led to was way too strange.

In the middle of the wider corner of the castle, there were luxurious large tables and chairs that looked like they were brought from somewhere, while carpets were laid out as if trying to hide *something* on the floor.

.....Were you guys unable to keep up the appearances a little more?

“Wouldn’t you say this dining room is *a little big*?”

“Well, no... because of the constraints, this was prepared in a hurry.”

“Hmm...”

I think if I tease him any more, Duke Kapell’s self-respect will tear itself to rags.

“.....”

The two of them were glaring at me from both sides silently. ... it seems that one side was unable to calm down, given that my elder sister-samas who were also Duke Verusenia’s daughters were here.

Well, although I’m a self-indulgent person, since I’m the younger sister, surely it’s alright to call out to my elder sisters.

“Elder Sister Athena, if you keep wrinkling your brows like that, your cute face will be ruined.”

“.....Yurushia. What kind of joke are you trying to make by calling me [Sister] ...?”

“It’s only a formality, so don’t mind it. Oh yeah, I heard you became part of the hero’s party...?”

“Well... Al-sama is strong and his knowledge is splendid. It’s far removed from someone who’s the [Princess] of a country where old-fashioned traditions are in charge.”

"Ara, ara, ufufu. That is good. Because it would be troublesome for the family which Elder Sister marries into to look after her, it would be great if he could look after you properly and train you."

My words cause Elder Sister's face to change colour.

The Hero that Elder Sister was after tried to kiss my hand twice and was interrupted both times.

"...Even if it's you, I won't allow you to besmirch Al-sama....."

"Ooh, scary."

I couldn't hold in my joy, and when I involuntarily broke out into a full laughter at them, my Elder Sister-sama physically took a step back.

".....Yurushia"

Rick tapped my shoulder with a *pon* and looked at me with a shocked face.

Glancing back, I could see that Noel also had a troubled and bitter smile. I wonder if my enjoyment went just a little over the limit?

"It's been a long time, Athena."

"...Roderick-sama"

The two of them exchanged greetings and then settled back into silence with strained faces.

Was Rick the person that Elder Sister Athena used to be betrothed to? Well, for now I'll leave Athena-onee-sama to Rick for a bit.

"Ophelia-onee-sama...?"

"...Hee!"

What is with that reply..... I haven't said much so far, so why are you so afraid?

"...Y-Yu-Yurushia..... I have nothing to say to you."

"Now, now, don't say such a thing. Won't you listen to your cute little sister's request?"

"...Wh-what?"

If you keep making such a frightened face, my Demon blood will be roused and I'll need to hold it back.....

"What was it between the two of you?"

As I dragged her closer and whispered that to her, Ophelia-onee-sama gave a small nod with teary eyes.

"W-we..... played together with Roderick-sama when we were little kids..."

"Hmmm..."

A childhood friend, huh...? So for your engagement to be annulled, what exactly did you do, Onee-samas.....

Thing is, Ophelia-onee-sama seems like she's regressing into an infant.

"W-well, let's eat!"

Duke Kapell, who couldn't bear the atmosphere, said so loudly.

That's right. It's time for the main dish.

What a scene.....

Duke Kapell was talking to himself in a nervous sweat, Rick was there silently eating while Noel, who wasn't used to this atmosphere, was warily surveying his surroundings with a nervous face. Athena-onee-sama was ignoring everyone else as if they weren't there, while Ophelia-onee-sama just sat, unable to even speak with a cramped face, and my attendants and I were eating without even hiding the displeased expressions on our faces.

Incidentally, despite saying that it's only for young people... are Duke Kapell, Callisto and that unknown old guy just waiting for a tsukkomi for being present?

"Who is that person?"

Ah, Rick seems to have gotten to the tsukkomi first.

"How rude of me... This is Kord-dono that I've invited from Terutedo for guidance in summoning magic."

At Duke Kapell's introductions, the man built like a rock rose smoothly and nodded.

"I am Kord. I have heard of your name. Because I'm a boorish person who only engages in research, I hope you'll forgive my rudeness..."

He says he's a researcher, but he looks more like a warrior.....

"Do all the men of Terutedo forge their bodies like Kord-sama?"

When I let out my side comment, Kord lost his breath for a moment, and then answered without looking at me.

"...In a warrior country, if one is not strong, one will be treated with contempt."

The common names for the nations, or should I say, their nicknames, like [Holy Kingdom], [Agricultural Country], or [Warrior Country], weren't officially their names, but rather labels so that others could understand what they did.

For example, this country's [Holy Kingdom] title is commonly used in diplomacy because its official name is rather hard on the ears, while Shiguresu's [Agricultural Country] was rude to use in official settings.

Despite being called a [Warrior Country] Terutedo isn't actually fond of war, but they're a people that loves to train their bodies and collect weapons, and are mostly harmless except towards those who were [Clear Enemies] like the Daemons and Demons, a self-proclaimed [Warrior Country].

For better or for worse, the people of Terutedo are lovable [Muscle Heads].

"So Kord-sama is a rare type in Terutedo.....?"

"Well... you could say that"

There are serious researchers in the muscle-brained country called Terutedo, but those people were mostly those with weak bodies or who were women.

Those people are mostly doing their very best to make [The Strongest Weapon Imaginable], so besides Kord, while they all trained in fighting with weapons, there are almost no people studying summoning magic.

"Oh, right, Kord-dono gave me a rare fruit liquor from Terutedo. Let's serve it immediately."

Somehow sensing the delicate air between Kord and I, Duke Kapell panicked

and ordered the serving of the wine.

Quickly, as if they had had it already prepared in the next room, a slightly cold and orange fruit liquor was poured into all the glasses.

Although the official age for drinking alcohol was 15 years old, generally people would gradually start to develop a taste for it from the age of 10. From the age of 15 it becomes alright to sit in a bar and drink as much as you want.

Although Betty did recommend that I drink, I never thought that it could be delicious since I couldn't get drunk.

"What's this...?"

"Lucia... what's the matter?"

"Well, It was just a little delicious..."

It really was a little delicious. Although originally it was supposed to be a famous and precious sake, but as Rick, Noel and I were drinking it deliciously and having a conversation.....

".....This..."

If I looked closely, I could see a [Cloudiness] in the clear orange liquid that was invisible to [Human Beings].

This is, magical power.....

Gatta.....a

Rick and Noel... and my Older Sister-samas all lost consciousness abruptly and collapsed.

"...Poison?"

I failed. No, I was careless. Poison doesn't work on Demons, so I didn't even try to guard against it.

"[Let there be..."

As I tried to cast the Holy Magic【Detoxification】, I was assailed by a sudden weakness, and slid down when I tried to stand up from the chair I was on.

"Yurushia-sama"

"MASTER!"

My attendants came rushing over at the state of affairs... Did the poison not work on those children?

"As expected of the one called a [Saint], Princess Yurushia. You're still conscious....."

Said Duke Kapell, with a voice that seemed like it was going to burst into laughter at any moment.

"What about these brats? Did they not drink the wine?"

Kord said crudely, standing next to Duke Kapell.

My consciousness seems to be breaking off..... But that was foolish. My attendants' anger was boiling over, and they were about to go berserk. If my attendants went into a rampage in this situation, Rick and Noel will die.

".....[Let there be Light]!"

I mustered my will and shouted out the Holy magic's incantation.

Even if the poison's effect causes me to be unable to control my raging magical power well, it should have at least neutralised the poison in Rick a little.

"...You all, carry Rick outside of the castle..... and then Vio..."

"B-, but Yurushia-sama..."

"Hurry up and do it!"

Under the light of the Holy Magic, my attendants reluctantly followed my instructions to them, and teleported out with Rick.

Although it normally isn't an issue for me to teleport with them as well, if I teleport out with my magical power in this state, I don't know what kind of accident might happen.

As the dazzling light faded, I could see that Duke Kapell had a panicked expression on his face, while Kord wielded a huge sword, grimacing as he looked down on me.

"Despite being in that state, to think that you could still cast magic....."

"What happened, where is Roderick!? Did those servants evacuate him!?"

Bellowed Duke Kapell at his men, but the guards in front of the door could only shake their heads, their faces blue.

"Kapell, those brats are inconsequential. With just the little lady alone, we should be able to get enough magical power."

"B-,but... With the witnesses alive..."

"Cut the waffling and resolve yourself."

"I... I understand."

"Du-Duke Kapell-sama..... what is the meaning of this..."

Callisto, who had been dazed until then drew close at that point, sweating profusely, while Duke Kapell, on the contrary, turned to Callisto with an arrogant look.

"Watch quietly as our **[God]** is summoned."

"S-so, is that how it is..."

Staring with contemptuous eyes, Kord came to me, who hadn't lost consciousness yet and kneeled.

"Rejoice. Your magic will realise the grand wish of our [King]."

Kord's face radiated a sense of accomplishment... and then as thinking of what would come next, joy.

It seems that the poison was effective on the part of me that was [Human]... Normal poison wouldn't work, so what kind of creature could produce this kind of poison.....

".....Daemons."

As I lost control over my mouth, the smile on Kord's face disappeared as I leaked out the last word.

".....I see. It will be dangerous if you're left alive."

As I muttered, Kord started up the magic formation under the carpet and began to cast at the same time.

So as I expected, it was a Daemon, huh..... It was too suspicious in various ways.

“[Magic Power Transfer]...!”

As Kord’s incantation completed, my rampaging magical power was absorbed by the formation.

“What..... is this amount of magical power... Is this girl even human...”

Nope, I’m a Demon..... But this might be bad. My rampaging magical power has disappeared and the strain on my body has eased, but my consciousness is still cut off.

Without my magic power and my consciousness, it’s impossible to resist.....

So sleepy..... can’t ... I shou.....

.....eh,

.....

*

Kord who was the Daemon King’s confidant and general had received a secret mission from the Daemon King, and so had been collecting magical power from the various human nations.

As a warrior that battled humans on the front lines, he wanted to cross swords with the [Hero] that would appear.

But he respected and loved the Daemon King and he knew that there would be no future for Daemons even if they won over the humans. While Kord didn’t understand the theory, he knew they were attempting to call out something 【Massive】.

The three types of Demons of the 【Ruling Class (Master Class)】 that would appear after a long time of being a 【Greater Demon (Arch Demon)】.

【Demon Lord】

【Demon Beast】

【The Devil】

If it was let out not under control, the Daemon Race would perish. But without that much power, it would be impossible to force the Daemon race to obey and manage them.

As for the Daemon King, if a single one of the human nations knew of their [Plan] to summon one of those three 【Pillars】, all of the nations would band together to thoroughly destroy the Daemon race.

Things had to be done carefully.

Kord wanted to fight, but of those whom Daemon King trusted, only he was able to work in human society without being uncovered.

And, despite encountering the man that human society called the [Hero], he could only feel power from him that equaled a Daemon 【Dark Knight】, so he became disillusioned with human beings.

Agitating the priests and fanatics of the church, and collecting their magic power with sweet words, sending the magic power to the Daemons' territory.

Forced to make round-trips between the Daemons' territory and human society, Kord who was tired and frustrated plotted to make use of the [Saint] after hearing Duke Kapell talk about her.

There was a legend among the Daemons of an existence that led the [Hero] to victory with its mighty magic power and merciful heart.

As long as the Saint was next to him, the hero would be nigh-invulnerable.

The girl was still young, but if she was the [Genuine Article], then not only would there be enough magic power, but there might be the benefit of removing this troubling existence called a [Saint].

He did not think that the Saint would be such a beautiful girl.

With that youth, that beauty, and after witnessing her continue to use magic after drinking the medicine that was created to deprive the Hero of his strength, Kord was well and truly convinced that she was the [Genuine Article].

Kord had thought of offering her up to the Daemon king, but judged that she would be a danger to them since she managed to see through Kord as a Daemon.

After absorbing her enormous magical power, she fell unconscious and lay there on the cold floor.

Kord who stepped forward to end her life without increasing her suffering was suddenly beset by an unspeakable chill.

The beautiful golden hair of the fallen girl swelled, and *fuuhhn*, the girl disappeared, leaving only her dress.

What happened? Where is the girl...?

“GUAAAAAAHHHHHHHHHHHHHHH!?”

A small golden lump jumped out of the shadow of the dress and bit deeply into Kord’s side.

Reflexively falling to one knee, Kord saw something even as his face warped in pain, it was a small [Golden Cat].

It wasn’t just a cat. It couldn’t be just a cat.

With fiendish red eyes that were devoid of reason. Crimson fangs and nails that dripped blood.

It was throwing out a violent, ominous presence. A human servant who wandered closer by accident was instantly decomposed from coming into contact with that miasma, rotting until his putrid flesh collapsed onto the ground.

“.....【Demon Beast】.....?”

That day..... the restraints of the 【Human Heart】 and 【Human Body】 were released,

And the upper-class Demon 【Golden Beast】, was unleashed upon the Holy Kingdom.

Author’s Notes:

Because I’ve received a number of questions, I’ll supplement it a bit.

There are many other religions in this world other than the Kostoru religion, such as the god of fire, the god of trade, and the god of knowledge, but I’ve

divided them into [Sects].

Most of the religions were treated the same, which includes the hundreds of emerging religions.

Magic and sorcery differ in that [Magic] is mostly intuition, whilst the stuff that's studied and researched is called [Sorcery], but the boundary is ambiguous and mostly it's the professors in the schools that care about the divide.

Normal people also can't tell the difference between magic and sorcery. The students of the academy also call it only by feeling.

To be exact, summoning is [Sorcery], but other subjects are called [Magic] so it's also named accordingly.

Sorry about the carefree world setting. I too sometimes get overwhelmed, so forgive me.

Chapter 14: Unleashed ②

Kord was confused.

It's understandable. His Daemon King had spent several years..... if you included the preparation period, nearly 20 years had been spent on trying to summon this thing, and here it was right in front of him.

“It can not be...”

It couldn't be that a【Demon Beast】was in front of him. The documents that spoke of its existence was thousands of years old.

Who could believe that one would encounter such a legendary existence this easily even if they asked for it?

However, Kord's dream was shattered as the small golden cat let out a cry, and the entire castle shook, cracks appearing in the thick walls and stone floors. In the midst of the enormous swirling magic power and miasma, the shadow of the cracks materialized and began to flow and spread, and he could feel a sheer amount of corruption that exceeded that of an 【Arch Demon】.

It looked like a thin, short-haired golden cat.

Along its small back, wings that were the same colour as its golden fur that were disproportionately larger than the body by a few tens of centimeters spread out. then, flapping a single time with its huge wings that exceeded 5 metres, the **【Golden Beast】** slowly floated into the air.

What was this Demon going to do...?

The 【Golden Beast】let out a low growl as it faced a certain direction, and Kord, noticing that the direction was the [Daemons' territory], turned pale, even as he bled from his face and side.

“...Oh, Ohhhh, so this is a Demon Beast!”

Calling out in joy, Duke Kapell forgot himself as he neared the 【Golden Beast】. He hadn't noticed what happened, and he hadn't even noticed that it

had been Yurushia.

"Now, Demon Beast, kill the weak Royal family, and all the other obstructive Ducal houses! Obey me, and I will sacrifice thousands to-,"

The foolish Duke Kapell believed Kord's lies and was convinced that the summoned Demon would obey him.

His grandfather was the youngest brother of the king, so he believed that he had only been unlucky, thinking that if he could become king he would be able to subjugate all the surrounding countries including Shiguresu and Terutedo and lead them into being a true Holy Kingdom.

Duke Kapell had tried several strategies, and was related to both Demon summoning incidents: supplying money and information to the one thought to be the mastermind, Marquis Bruneau.

Since his plan that had taken him such a long time at last to reached its final stage, Duke Kapell lost his calm and became talkative, and in the middle of his words, and carelessly stepped into the blanket of [Darkness] that spread across the floor.

splat...

"...GyyaaaaaaaHHHHHHHHHHH, aAAaaAAa, Aa....."

Duke Kapell turned into a skeleton as thousands of years seemed to pass in an instant, the man who had been secretly maneuvering behind the back of the Holy Kingdom crumbled away like a pile of dust in the wind, closing the curtains upon his life.

His soul was inhaled by the **[Golden Beast]** with great relish, who chewed it for a bit before swallowing.

Whether **[She]** was in the form of the **[Golden Beast]** or not, she was still a gourmand, and there was a hint of pleasure as she pulled out all the weak-willed humans' **[Souls]**. All the subordinates who knew of Duke Kapell's plans simply ceased to live without a single outward injury.

For an upper-class Demon that's beyond the realm of mere Greater Demons (Arch Demons), there wasn't even a need for her to even lift a finger to take a

human's [Soul], just like a believer would dedicate [Offerings] to their gods, so did the weak-minded humans offer up their souls.

Their dead faces showed not joy, but an [Anguish] that caused one to wonder just how much pain they went through.

No one would ever think of wanting to die like this.

The only one who survived was Kord, who believed not in God but the Daemon King, and Callisto, who was able to use a little Holy Magic.

"Th-that... I... God.....why..."

Frozen in fear from seeing that unbelievable thing, Callisto shook his head like a small child while crying.

Callisto had believed that everything would be perfect if God descended.

If God descended, this world would find peace, so he had no qualms about destroying the little peace of the people who lived happily now.

He believed with all his heart that if the Holy Kingdom threw away all of its military for a God, even the Daemons would relent.

Not realizing that he had merely replaced [Military] with [God] to protect the people, he couldn't understand the reason for his exile from the Holy Kingdom, and didn't realize the contradiction of harming others' happiness for peace.

Finally given the means to make his ideal a reality by Duke Kapell, on the verge of seeing his dream a reality, Callisto preached an incredible dream.

Before him, with the beauty and power of God, was a Demon.....

Unable to accept reality, Callisto's spirit gave way to the fear from the miasma, foaming at the mouth with bloodshot eyes wearing a thin smile.

As a matter of fact, this loss saved Callisto's life.

Callisto's soul that had suffered a mental collapse and had no more value and so became of no interest to the gourmand【Golden Beast】.

But with all of the living humans gone and only the grating rasp of a mentally deranged human, a hint of annihilation was shortly aimed towards him, but then,

“GaaaaaaaaaaaaAAAGAAAAAAA!”

Kord's greatsword slashed down, releasing a shockwave toward the **【Golden Beast】**.

It wasn't that Kord was going to help Callisto. Rather, that his warrior instincts told him that if he didn't use his greatest attack during this small gap in its defense, he wouldn't even be able to scratch this Demon Beast.

As the impact crushed the stone wall, and enormous rubble fell, Kord felt a little chill and dodged, the **【Golden Beast】** tore off his right arm, and broke apart his greatsword.

“GowaaaaaaaAAAAAAA”

Kord released his [Human] illusion, and reverted to the figure of a [Daemon] with grey skin. Along with that, he released magic power to heal his injuries, also raising his offensive and defensive power, but that **【Golden Beast】** tore through it like thin paper.

Daemons couldn't use Holy Magic, but they could use Water Magic to close wounds and improve healing. In the first place, Daemons had way more physical strength than a human, but every strike from the **【Golden Beast】** on his flanks and his arms left a curse-like miasma coiling about them, which degraded his body from the inside.

“.....Monster....”

“Master!?”

As the attendants who sensed that enormous presence returned, they were surprised by Yurushia returning to the form they dearly missed..... the 【Golden Beast】.

“Tina!”

[ShaaaaAAAAAAA!]

As Nia raised her voice, the **【Golden Beast】** struck the exact same moment with terrifying speed and bit off Tina's arm clean off her shoulder.

“.....Ah!”

“.....*kuu*”

Instantly Noa used 【Unleash】 and stopped Tina from collapsing using his magic power, but Tina who had turned pale refused to believe her eyes about her [Master]’s body.

“Can you still move? Tina?”

“...Ye, Yes, but leaving that aside, our Master”

“We’ll be back!”

Fannie’s voice brought everyone to attention. Having a taste of a lower-rank Demon, the 【Golden Beast】brimmed with a brutal presence, and, spreading its golden wings, it attacked them again.

“Yurushia-sama!”

Nia immediately took the blow with her Cursed Blade, but was unable to fully 【Absorb】 the power of the blow and was blown off into the wall, falling to her knees.

“cough.....so strong”

“You brats!”

Kord called out to the attendants who were somehow able to battle that [Monster].

“Help me! I am General Kord of the Daemon King’s army. If you leave this monster be, the human nations will be finished!”

The only thing in Kord’s mind, was the Daemon King’s territory and the Daemon King himself.

Why the [Saint’s] disappearance would cause the [Demon Beast] to appear was beyond his understanding, but when the 【Golden Beast】 turned its head toward the direction of the Daemons’ territory, Kord knew that it was seeking out the magic power that he had transferred.

{I won’t let you get to the Daemon King-sama...!}

He prided himself as being one of the top five of the Daemon King’s subordinates, but he was being trampled to his wits’ end by this little Demon.

Kord had already resolved to die, for the sake of the Daemon King he chose to throw away his pride and work together with the [Humans].

“..... Monster...?”

“...!?”

As Kord turned to the sudden voice coming from behind him, he saw a boy wearing an enraged expression staring at him.

Noa didn't even give him the time to raise his voice, and used the greatest force of【Unleash】to instantly pulverise his body and soul.

“...Low-life.”

As Noa spit out the words, half the castle collapsed under the force of the 【Golden Beast】and his 【Unleashing】.

Gagin

“...kuhh”

Meanwhile, Nia who held the power of【Absorption】was barely taking the attacks of the【Golden Beast】.

The attendants couldn't strike Yurushia.

However, since Tina and Fannie couldn't even take a single blow from the 【Golden Beast】, and Nia suffered increasing damage with every single blow that she 【Absorbed】as it stood, they would be overwhelmed.

“Fannie, supplement Nia's magic power! Tina! We will stop Yurushia-sama, so attack with full force.”

Tina's eyes went wide at Noa's instructions.

“Wha-what are you saying!? To attack our Master...”

“...A half-baked attack won't do any damage. In order to wake up Yurushia-sama who is the fastest in the Demon World, the instant that Nia takes the blow we counterattack with full force. Even she should stop moving then.”

“.....”

Tina gritted her teeth as her left shoulder regenerated, her curly golden hair

turning into countless snakes.

The other three also shed their human forms and raised their magic power to their maximum.

For these four Demons, neither the affairs of this country, nor the affairs of the world mattered to them.

If Yurushia wished it, they would be happy to turn the whole world into their enemies and reap the souls of all the living beings.

As a result, even if they had to perish, they felt a joy rather than fear at the thought of dying for their [Master].

However, the current **【Golden Beast】** was different.

It was different from their Master [Yurushia] who was like a mother to them, the only source of warmth in the Demon World like the sun.

Their true Master [Yurushia] had to be recovered. Even if they had to perish.

“I’m starting—!”

The Harlequin-masked Fannie focused a mental assault on the **【Golden Beast】** to divert its attack even a little.

When it came, Nia jumped into the line of fire and took the blow, whilst Tina’s snakes coiled around the body of the **【Golden Beast】**, tying it up until it couldn’t be seen.

“Now”

“**【Unleash】!**”

Nia took the power absorbed from the **【Golden Beast】**’s assault, and channeled it straight into Noa’s attack as magic power.

The full manifestation of the four **【Greater Demons】** and their special characteristics in a combination attack.

[KiyshaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaAAA!!!!]

As the **【Golden Beast】** cried out in pain, half the snakes crushing it solidified and stopped moving. ...But...

A huge amount of magic power was released explosively from within, tossing off the golden snakes, smashing Nia's cursed sword, and tearing up the four Demons.

"....."

The Demons fell to the ground and looked up silently as the 【Golden Beast】 calmly fluttered into the air as if nothing had happened.

They knew better than anyone that Yurushia was [Superior] to them. But, because her everyday self didn't feel threatened, her usual magical power was only somewhat larger than theirs, split from the Demon Beast form, giving her human self an *unexpectedly large* [Magic Power].

Would everything end without them being able to recover [Yurushia]..... Just as the Demons were thinking that...

plop.....

" " " "...eh?" " "

The golden cat suddenly fell, and a naked [Yurushia] rolled on the ground.

* * *

Daemon King Hebrad was born as a Daemon more than 30 years ago.

His father was the previous Daemon King, and his mother was killed by the other wives after giving birth to him.

In addition, Hebrad had a secret he couldn't tell anyone, he had memories of a previous life as a human.

If this was to be known, he would be killed by the Demons that hated humans. Even so, he never considered himself an ally of the humans.

In his past life, he had been a corporate slave to a black company, had been exploited by everyone around him, and had lived being held in contempt.

His parents had died while he was still in school and his uncle's family cheated him of the insurance money, so he despaired and hated human beings despite being one. One night he spit blood into his futon, dying without ever being cared for.

He thought that he had been given a chance at last to avenge himself on human beings by being reborn as a Daemon.

His hatred was seen as strange among the Daemons and the previous Daemon King, who had no affections for his own children, made use of that hatred, so Hebrad was given a harsh and elite education.

But as Hebrad gained the knowledge necessary to command the Daemon Army, his despairing thoughts began to change.

Daemonkind had already reached the limit.

Humans were hated, and the Daemons were descended from persecuted humans.

Despite his attempts at reform using the knowledge from his previous life, the Daemons only knew how to take from others, to deceive others, and to pull others who aspired to rise in society down, so the reforms were all in vain.

After that, he changed.

At the age of ten, he killed the previous Daemon King, united the foolish Daemons, and realised that a strong power was necessary to get his revenge on human beings.

And now, it's 20 years later.

The plan began, the summoning formation had collected magic power for over ten years.

"What..... this is..."

The magic power sent from General Kord was approximately 80% of all the magic power collected thus far, all put together, Hebrad had exceeded the amount of magical power that he needed for the summoning.

"What happened..."

It was clearly an abnormal situation. The amount was abnormal, on top of that, he had never seen such pure magic power with such a golden colour before.

Although Hebrad rejoiced over Kord's results, he worried for the man.

“.....Naa”

The abnormal things didn’t end there.

To summon the upper-class demon, a variety of constraints were applied, and not only magic power, but a large amount of sacrifices were prepared as [Offerings] and it was necessary to repeatedly check through each preparation step.

The huge summoning magic formation filled with magic power suddenly started shining.

“Who started it up!? Stop it now, even if you have to break a part of the summoning circle!”

At Hebrad’s shout, the technicians started to panic and moved even as the Dark Knights moved to prepare their weapons.

Such a thing was impossible.

In response to the golden magic power that was being poured in, [Something] was forcing its way through to manifest from the Demon World.

“Damn it!”

Hebrad began to cast magic without even bothering to hide his frustration and impatience.

Using his otherworldly knowledge, he forcefully attempted to contaminate the area being used for the trial, unleashing a magic that would diminish his lifespan.

” [Nuclear Destruction]! ”

Even if the plan had to be restarted because the summoning formation was destroyed, it would be better than letting whatever that [Thing] was inside out without the restraints.

As the bright light engulfed several of the mages, during the instant he tried to destroy the magic formation..... It manifested.

[GaaaaaaaaAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAA]

The angry roar shook the entire Daemon territory.

Countering the nuclear strike magic with only a roar, it was an inky black leopard that was well over 10 metres to a side... darker than darkness itself.

“.....It..... can’t..... be.....”

Hebrad numbly muttered as he collapsed with an expression of pure despair.

He knew what that [Demon] was.

An ancient Demon recorded in ancient texts that had only been seen once in the distant past, and had laid waste to several countries.

“.....【Demon Beast】... 【Dark Beast】... ”

The Daemons would perish today.....

In front of Hebrad who was having such thoughts, 【Dark Beast】 crushed all the mages and Dark Knights with a single roar, and then suddenly raised its head as if it had noticed [Something].

[.....Guruu...]

In an instant, the 【Dark Beast】 broke through the bedrock ceiling of the underground altar and leaped out, flying away without devouring their souls.

And thus the plan that the Daemon King had taken several decades to execute vanished, and the Daemons escaped their extinction.

Chapter 15: Dark Beast

“Yurushia-sama!”

After being momentarily dumbfounded, but the attendants came to their senses, dragging their wounded bodies over to Yurushia’s fallen form.

However,

“Wait, has she *really* returned...?”

“.....”

As Noa’s spoke, Nia, who had repeatedly taken on attacks, quickly stopped her movement.

In her hand was the sword that had been shattered by 【Golden Beast】 leaving only the handle, and Nia wasn’t sure how many more serious attacks she could take.

“.....It’s fine.”

While regenerating her left arm and restoring her maid outfit from her hair, Tina calmly smiled at the twin Demons.

“And why is that...?”

Noa wanted to rush up to Yurushia immediately. However, at the same time, since he had taken up the role of administering the servants from her, their Mistress, he was responsible for organising everyone so that they could get their Mistress back.

At Noa’s question, Tina puffed up her chest with a *fufun*.

“Regarding Yurushia-sama, everything from her preferred food to her health and even the growth of her chest measurements have been perfectly grasped with these eyes and this nose... I would understand more if I could lick her, but even without I am sure that she has completely returned.”

As Tina said this in a matter-of-fact manner with a self-satisfied look, Noa and Nia’s wore delicate expressions.

Even though they were Demons, they drew back slightly.

“.....is that so.”

First of all, he didn’t need to understand that. There shouldn’t be a problem if it’s the pervert’s (Tina’s) words.

“Yurushia-sama, is merely sleeping.”

When the three looked back towards the voice, Fannie was already kneeling down next to Yurushia with without her guard up, smiling in satisfaction while listening to her making sleeping noises.

The ancient castle on the shores of the lake had mostly collapsed, and the light from the sun poured through the holes.

“Tina. Can you make Yurushia-sama some clothing?”

Although she was sleeping, it just wouldn’t do to leave their Mistress naked outdoors. The dress that Yurushia had been wearing was buried under the rubble, so even if they could find it, it wouldn’t do to put it on.

“Well, of course I can do it.”

As Nia covered Yurushia with her cloak, Tina, who was looking at Yurushia’s bare skin and feet with desire, replied to Noa a little too fast.

“Ah~, I can help~”

“...Well then, please do so then Fannie.”

Tina and Fannie knelt down next to their sleeping Mistress, and poured magic power into their hair, stitching Yurushia’s new dress onto her.

Noa, as a [Male-type], wasn’t allowed to go near their Mistress while her skin was still exposed. As Nia, who wasn’t allowed to help make the dress because of her clumsiness, watched on enviously, she suddenly raised a question.

“Why is the dress black even though Tina’s hair is golden?”

“.....I don’t know.”

She had the thought that she was [Black-hearted], but was kind enough not to mention it outloud.

"How strange."

As Fannie muttered so, a part of her hair was made into beautiful silver threads, and a few minutes passed while it decorated the black dress, after which the dress was finished.

*

".....Muu"

When I woke up, all I saw was the sprawling blue sky and the happy faces of my attendants.

"Yurushia-sama"

"Mistress, are you alright?"

"..... I, why was I asleep...?"

The attendants told me about the events that happened after I lost consciousness.

I didn't think that the poison would work so well on my human half, but there was no way that I should have returned to my Demon form (cat) just because of that...

I think I was able to revert back because I poured out all the magic of my human half to save everyone from the poison, so that's why I transformed completely into a Demon.

"By the way, what happened to the rest of the humans?"

"Yes, Roderick-sama, Noel-sama, and your sisters are all sleeping by the lake away from the castle. Vio and the maids, along with your knight-samas were all drugged and sleeping but we woke them after moving everyone there. After explaining the circumstances, we requested for Vio to help detoxify the Highnessess."

"I see... Ah? What about the Hero?"

I had completely forgotten, but since I suddenly remembered, I asked.

"Just in case, we moved them along with the rest..... Is that bad?"

"No... ah, well."

As Nia reported what happened while I was out, as I answered properly, I looked over at the destroyed castle.

Maybe those people died just for getting involved. I don't feel sad about it, though.

I wonder if Vio is worried... I don't know the details of what happened, so I shouldn't stay around here now, since the rest of them are working so hard.

Before I knew it, my clothes had changed to a black and silver dress. They're so comfortable that it's scary.

"Still, even though I ate Duke Kapell's soul, I don't remember its taste..."

What a waste. It was in a great state, matured and ripe.

As I muttered, Noa grinned with a Demonic smile.

"There's no problem. When Nia took Yurushia-sama's attack, although it didn't take in everything, a part of the magic power and the soul was recovered. I will be using Duke Kapell's soul for tonight's dinner."

"Ohh~"

As expected of Noa. Such meticulous work. But.....

"Nia, let me see your sword."

"...ulp"

Since they said that Nia had stopped it, she probably took the attack from the Demon (cat) with her sword. Did she think that I would get mad at her because the sword got broken? Even though I'm such a gentle Master.

"Noa. Please repair the sword with my magic power and Kapell's soul."

".....Is that really alright?"

"Yep"

Even I have things that I consider more important than my own appetite.

"It is repaired."

"So fast."

He's fast as always. I didn't manage to see him repair it this time either.

Although, the Demon's sword now..... what the heck's this? Even though the sword was previously pitch-black, now it's shiny gold and leaves sparkly gold particles behind with every swing.

..... How flashy.

"Nia..... here you are"

"Wow... thank you, thank you! Yurushia-sama~"

I think that it's too flashy, but Nia seemed very pleased.

Nia held the sword in front of her and gave a test swing towards the rubble of the castle, "[Nya]"

.....haa?

As Nia continued to swing the Demon Blade,

"[Nya]" "[Nya]" "[Nya]"

With every swing a [Sound Effect] was made, as the stone rubble split like pudding.

" " " "" "

Why did it turn out like this...?

Is it my fault? Is it because of my magic power? Also, am I imagining it, but is that my [Voice]?

"A~ma~zing, Yurushia-sama, this, this is amazingly wonderful~"

"Nonononononono, hold on"

I put a stop to Nia's happy fantasizing.

"I will try to fix it, so hand it back to me for a bit. ...'kay?"

"Eehh~~..."

Nia hugged her Demon Blade and refused, shaking her head with tears in her eyes. ...Ku. Is she pleased to be disobeying me.....?

After that, I made a new Demon sword by using a sword I found in the castle and infusing it with my magic power along with Holy Magic to form an ordinary [Golden Demon Blade], but Nia never exchanged the original for it..... My sense

of shame is being put to the test.

"Yurushia-sama... something's coming."

"...eh?"

Fannie gave a sketchy warning with a laid-back tone.

I understood that her words were a [Warning] because as she said it, her face changed into her Harlequin mask.

Fannie's perception is the best among us. Incidentally, mine is almost nonexistent... Since she didn't delay at all in assuming a battle form, the other attendants instantly transformed back into the Demon forms.

Incubus. Succubus. Gorgon. Nightmare.

Those were the horrifically chuunibyou [Settings] that I had made, but was quite the spectacle when they were lined up seriously like this.

But... these children, why were their bodies also growing like mine? I wonder if they were in sync with me.

".....!?"

I finally felt [Something].No, it's clearly not just [Something]. Violent and rough, it's the presence of a [Big Shot].....

"[Guaooo!]"

A tempest blew, and the lake waters roiled as the roar of a huge beast echoed.

"[I've finally found you! Golden beast!!!!]"

As expected, it was 【Him】..... My benefactor from the demon world and owner.

Demon Beast... 【Dark Beast】.

"H-hiya~ Long time no see~"

As always, 【He】 doesn't have a single shred of shame, while I spoke in a light tone, waving my hands in a cold sweat.

When I looked, the attendants that were supposed to be next to me were

already a few steps behind me. ...You guys... I'll remember this later.

"[.....【Golden Beast】...? Why are you in the form of a human...?]"

When 【He】just so much as glanced at me, 【He】let out an overwhelmingly powerful [Intimidation].

"..... Please stop calling me by my species name. I am 'Yurushia.'"

I countered 【His】intimidation with an [Intimidation] of my own while smiling.

"[What..... you are a Demon, so why would you have a [Name] like a human being...]"

There's no point being surprised. Although I didn't understand it at first, giving a [Name] to a powerful Demon imposes a [Burden] to their very [Existence].

In order to endure it, a strong magic power was necessary, Mother-sama was only fine after naming me because she was a mage and also because I was about as strong as a baby at the time.

"[.....For the time being, that's fine.]"

【He】suddenly said in a gentle voice as 【He】descended in front of me.

kapu

"Hey-"

and just as suddenly, 【He】bit my shoulder. it hurt a little but not as much as I thought it would.

"....."

I'd missed this gentle play-biting that 【He】did, and I also reached out my hands to 【Him】 and threaded my hands into his chest and *mofumofu*'d. I wanted to *mofu* him with my face, but I endured it.

As I closed my eyes slightly in bliss, 【He】licked my neck with his rough tongue.

"Oy, don't get carried away~"

"[.....]"

How nostalgic..... When I was in the Demon Realm, we often did this together.

“[.....Why did you leave the Demon Realm?]”

【He】 growled out as his presence strengthened.

“...I wanted to see the world of light.”

I didn't want to deceive him, so I honestly answered, but 【He】 bit down on my shoulder with a little more force.

“[Is it because you wanted to have the appearance of a human...?]”

“Well..... that's just the result of coincidence, but I do like it now..... uhm... How did you get into this physical world...?”

I changed the topic because 【He】 kept biting me with more and more force and it started getting painful.

“[I felt your magic power.....]”

“Wa-wait... that hurts!”

Although I was shielding myself with magic power, 【His】 huge fangs slowly bit into me.

“...L-let me go...”

“[It's useless. You will return to the Demon Realm. ...I will destroy this human body.]”

...Eh? 【He】 said something unexpected as his teeth bit further into me.

【He's】 serious.....

“.....[Let there be Light]!”

I released my magic power, and struck 【Him】 on the face with my strongest [Holy Light].

“[Guooo..... the Holy Light... Are you, going to resist me...?]”

As 【He】 growled out while narrowing his eyes against the radiance, I let out my [Intimidation].

The Demon [Intimidation], the [Presence] that I'm releasing my Demon half's

magic power. For an ordinary creature of this world, it seems that they would be destroyed just by receiving 【His】 [Intimidation], but for the current [Me], it's not too difficult to stand.

“.....I’m sorry. I can’t indulge your selfishness to that extent.”

I spread out my bat wings and took some distance from 【Him】. Although I will return to the Demon World someday, today is not that day.

Although I told 【Him】 that 【He】 was being [Selfish], my desire to live in the human world is my own selfishness.

What a reason for [Demons] to fight one another.....

Therefore, I am going at it [Seriously]. So that 【He】will understand my [Feelings].

“[Piercing Light]”

Combining Holy Magic and Demon magic through the Spirit Language, an enormous [Spear of Light] was created.

“[Sparkling Sacred Spear]!”

As I uttered the last word, the spear of light morphed into a [Golden Spear]and threw itself towards 【Him】.

The golden spear tore through the sky,

“[Guaaaaaoooooooooooooooo!]”

In the instant 【He】 roared, a huge dark tornado was born, as it clashed with the golden spear it annihilated the remains of the ruined castle.

[Impossible..... The power of a 【Devil】!?]

Some words I don’t recognize came out...【Devil】? I just combined the suitable Demon’s magic with the knowledge from the world of light, it’s nothing special.

As 【He】 dashed up towards me like lightning, I put my entire magic power into my body.

“[Demon Beast (cat)] mode”

As I [Manifested] my entire Demon form, I turned into the Demon Beast (cat)

and avoided [His] fierce attack.

“[You could return to that form.....]”

I thought about removing the black and silver dress that I had been wearing, but it turned into a ribbon of the same colour around my cat neck.

I had been scared of fully transforming up until now. However, if I could transform back from human properly, the Demon Beast (cat) mode really was useful for fighting physical battles.

“[If you already have your Demon Beast (form), then stop being unreasonable and come back with me!]”

"....."

Flying away from the ruined castle, 【He】 and I engaged in a high-speed aerial battle. Well, because there's a difference in size, it's practically a one-sided chase...

In the Demon World, 【His】 speed was equal to mine, but in the air, I could freely move with my wings.

“[Guoooooooooooooo!]”

Roaring at each other, the golden storm met the black tempest and rose upwards.

From a third party's perspective, it looked like a good match. Still, as expected, his power was ridiculously high if 【He】 hit directly.

A part of the forest was destroyed due to 【His】 attacks and was turned into a corrupted sea. It'll be a pain if I don't 【Purify】 it later...

Still, 【He】 isn't being fully serious yet. 【He's】 unconsciously suppressing his power so that 【He】 won't destroy me.

I will make use of him spoiling me.....

“[Piercing Light]”

I returned to [Human] mode in the sky, and drew back a bow and arrow made of light.

“[Radiant Bow]!”

It's easier to use magic in my human mode. Or perhaps I should say, I can't use Holy Magic well in my Demon Beast (cat) mode.

I struck [Him] with over a hundred [Golden Arrows] from all directions.

“[Guaooooooooooooooo!]”

【His】 roar called out [Black Lightning] that intercepted the arrows.

Each arrow was only one hundredth of the power of the golden spear, but it seems that 【He】 didn't intend to receive a Devil's power directly.

Because of that, his consciousness was too spread out.

“[Nya]”

With that off-color slashing sound, Nia slashed at [His] back with full power.

[Gu..... you...]

“It’s been a long time.”

The moment Nia took **【His】** attention, Tina's voice came from behind him, and she entangled **【Him】** with countless golden snakes.

“[You dare defy me! This level of binding...]”

It's certainly true that Tina could only hold **Him** for a short while. But it's enough. In the small time that Nia and Tina earned, I took in the power that Noa **[Unleashed]**, and cast my magic.

“[Shining Sacred Spear]!”

Over the full-powered [Golden Spear] that I shot out, Fannie generated hundreds of illusions of spears that all shot towards [Him].

“[GuaaaaaaaaaaaAAAAAAA!!!!!!]”

Unable to discern the illusions, 【He】 received a direct hit and fell to the ground.

..... Did I overdo it? Although I thought that, 【He】 had fallen onto the castle ruins right side up, and although 【He】 had taken damage, 【He】 was still glaring at me.

We descended next to 【Him】, and I confronted 【Him】 in my human form.

“... You, it seems that you didn’t 【Manifest】 fully.....”

[.....]

Because 【He】 had forced himself through the summoning formation and into the Demon World forcibly without either sacrifices or a vessel, 【He】 had not managed to fully 【Manifest】 into the material world.

“I’m truly sorry..... In your current state of 【Manifestation】 you would be hard pressed to beat those of us who have [Names].”

That being said, as expected, 【His】 power is outstanding.

I would like him to return peacefully, but rather contrarily, because 【He】 doesn’t have a body here, a Demon that’s essentially a spirit-like lifeform won’t return unless his spirit is broken.

If we (the pets) beat him and 【He】 still didn’t lose his spirit, then what would we do, I wonder.....

“Yurushia!”

“Lucy!”

And at that time, I suddenly heard voices calling for me from far away.

Oh, my~..... They’ve come back at a terrible time.

Chapter 16: I Turned 10 Years Old And So On ①

Rick and Noel were at the front of the people who were running towards us..... Or not, it was three Holy Knights.

Those who piled up training in a temple and were practically heavy tanks that practiced defensive Holy Magic.

Due to that, they knew of Demonic Magic, and upon seeing 【His】 body, they subconsciously stopped walking, while Rick and Noel rushed forward.

“Yurushia, are you alright!?”

“Lucy, come down!”

Rick (once again) grabbed my arm and pulled me away, while Noel held out his sword, covering me.

“.....What is that thing ...”

Rick let out a hoarse whisper, as Noel’s face turned pale and started sweating profusely.

We (the attendants and I) had shaved down a lot of it, but 【His】 sheer existence... that presence was incomparably brutal if matched against the creatures of this world.

“[.....]”

He stared at us..... No, 【He】 was only gazing intently at [Me].

I wonder what 【He】 is thinking now..... Although if I were to be frank, I was a little happy that he was thinking of bringing me home after [Breaking] my body, but I just can’t respond to his one-sided selfishness.

“Roderick-sama, Yurushia-sama, please come down”

A little later, the Knights reached us. 3 Holy Knights and 8 Royal Knights. Along with 7 of my escort knights, including Bri-chan and Sara-chan. As expected, Vio is also close by.

One of the Holy Knights... a silver-grey-haired uncle, turned his shield towards **【Him】** with a nervous look.

“...That, is a considerably high-ranking Demon. I think it is a Demon Beast..... Did Yurushia-sama suppress it with her power?”

“Ye-, yeah..... Well, I-”

Now..... what to do? No matter how weakened a lion is, it can't be beaten by rabbits. Since their existences are of a whole different [Class], it can't be helped that the Human Knights can't do anything.

“This is where us knights will take over. Please, evacuate...”

Another one of the Holy Knights gave us a stoic smile. Even Bri-chan's face had greatly stiffened, but it looked as if she wasn't about to back down.

“[.....]”

I could see the signs of **【Him】** getting annoyed at the humans that were moving to [Protect] me and noticed his magic power gradually rising.

To tell the truth, neither I nor **【He】** has much magic power left.

In order to try to force me to return, **【He】** would try to replenish his magic power by devouring the souls of these humans who were in his way.

If it wasn't a soul that was tormented and then made to deepen, even if it was taken, it would not be able to help **【Him】** recover.

..... It seems that **【He】** wouldn't give up on me until his heart broke.

“.....”

It can't be helped..... It's bad to get everyone involved, but I have to break **【Him】** here.

“...[Light of Protection]”

Suddenly, hearing me recite a spell that they'd never heard of, Rick and Noel turned towards me in surprise.

“[Radiant Shield]...!”

“ ” “!?” ” ”

The bodies of all the humans were enveloped in a [Golden Light], and the Holy Magic-using Holy Knights' eyes widened at the [Greatest Protective Power] of the most ridiculous magic they had ever experienced.

Then,

“[GuooooGAAAAAAAAAAAAAAA!]”

Seeing me protect the [Humans], 【He】 let off an angry roar.

The sheer overwhelming power of his evil roar was enough to instantly kill a human being as soon as they heard it, but with the added protection of my [Radiant Shield], I prevented it and further increased the power of the humans.

“Everyone, show your pride as Knights of the Holy Kingdom!”

” ” “Yes!” ” ”

As Rick raised his voice in encouragement, the Knights who had had stoic expressions righted themselves and regained their fighting spirits, raising their swords.

“.....ah,”

I did it again.....

I had added the function of 【Raising Fighting Spirits】 to the 【Radiant Shield】 to help counter the pressure of the Demon roar, but it seems that it was too effective.....

“We shall support them.”

“Ah, yes..... please.”

As my attendants who read the mood said before I could ask, since they asked me, I gave my assent to Fannie.

“[Guaoooooooooooo!]”

Raising a roar, 【He】 dashed across the ground, but he's lost the speed he previously had. Still, even that was enough to lay waste to the human Knights.

“I will receive~ it”

Speaking with a relaxed voice, Nia rushed out ahead of the Holy Knights, and

stopped 【His】 attack with the Golden Blade (Nyanko Blade).

The attendants' magic powers were starting to run out, but if Nia used 【Absorption】, she could still take 【His】 attack.

” ” “OOOOOOOOOOH” ” ”

The Knights expressed their astonishment as they witnessed a 12 year old lady knight receive the attack of that Demon Beast.

Since it couldn't be helped so that the collateral damage would be completely nullified, it was too conspicuous if they thought too much about it, so had to make a decision quick.

“Noel~, get back here!”

“Lucy?”

When I caught him trying to get on the front line, Noel returned obediently even though he had a doubtful look.

“Lucy, what's wrong...?”

“No, well, just wait a moment. ...Fannie.”

As I called Fannie, she reverently presented the golden Demon blade that I had made as a spare.

“In the name of Yurushia-la-Verusenia, I bestow upon you this [Holy sword]. Receive it, Noel.”

“.....Yes.”

Noel who had been taken aback for a moment knelt down, and received the [Holy Sword] (temp) like a Knight.

For some reason Rick, who was next to him, looked sullen, but I don't care.

The Knights were fighting surprisingly well.

With the additional protection of my 【Radiant Shield】 , Nia receiving 【His】 attacks, and Noa and Tina assisting them with '*normal*' magic power, the result is obvious, even if I say so myself.

“Yurushia-sama, shall I go as well?”

"Not yet. That said, I'm thirsty, so please serve up some tea. Ah, go heavy on the souls."

"Yes~"

Since Rick's already gone to give instructions to the knights, I just changed to watching mode, and waited, fully prepared.

As the Holy Knights fought, they healed their companions with the Holy Magic 【Cure】, and my attendants were assisting them by shaving off 【His】 magic power. I instantly healed those who were seriously injured as the timing I was waiting for drew near, and finally the moment came.

"...【μυα】..."

Speaking the [Spirit of Light's Language] as he had done previously, the power of light condensed within the Golden Demon Blade in Noel's hands, and he swung down at 【Him】 as 【He】exposed a slight gap.

"[Splitting Light, Holy Sword]..."

Aiming for that exact moment, I reinforced the 【Shining Sacred Sword】magic on Noel's Golden Blade.

Although the spell 【Holy Sword】exists in Holy Magic, my magic is of the highest caliber, and the power of it was a complete order of magnitude greater.

"Perish, Demon!"

"[GuooooooooooooOOOOOOO!]"

When Noel swung down the sword, it emitted a bright light and turned into a huge golden sword, forcing 【Him】 to fall back dozens of meters.

..... To not have taken much damage even from that attack, he's really really far out of their league.

"[.....Guu...]"

Nonetheless, its power exceeded his expectations, and for the first time in the fight, 【He】 became wary of a human, setting Noel who was wielding the golden demon blade firmly in his sights.

".....That... not enough..."

"Noel's attack seemed effective, so are you going to do it again?"

"Yes....."

As Rick spoke to Noel, he took up a position beside him, readying his sword.

"....."

When I finished drinking my tea, I approached them quietly, putting myself one step in front of them so as to protect them, and showed a [Sly] expression that nobody but **[Him]** noticed.

"[.....Gugu...]"

When I heard the sound of **[His]** teeth grinding together, I finally noticed how unfavourable my position was and leapt up into the sky, as he stared at me from a distance.

I could feel the anger, but I can't feel **[His]** will to fight anymore.

He'd been defeated once by me (pet), albeit while I was being protected by my attendants, and after which he couldn't defeat even a single human being, as I acted like a **[Human]** and lived amongst them, finally causing **[Him]** to break down.

It was bothersome in various ways.....

I wish I could just return to the Demon World happily as it is.....

Staring at **[Him]** with that thought, as I turned away from **[Him]**, he finally called me by my **[Name]** and not just **[Golden Beast]**.

"[YurushiaAAAAAAAAAAAAAAA! I will definitely bring you back to the Demon World the next tiiiime!]"

..... Has he not been broken completely yet?

Author's Notes:

The next round is the final story of book 3.

App's Notes:

Hah, bet you didn't see that coming... nobody got possessed! (I promise...

<_<)

Also, dat name drop tho

Piroton's Notes:

I have become dead, destroyed by cute.

When is this sore throat going to go away ; _ ; Kind of anticlimactic, isn't it, that showdown. Ah well. Things get more interesting.

Chapter 17: I Turned 10 Years Old And So On ②

“.....What in the world was that monster...”

Said the so-called Hero Alfio in a cracking voice.

Nobody blamed him for being [Timid]. Antique the Elf and the swordswoman Cheria both had had pale faces as they watched the battle with the [Demon Beast].

Alfio had his meals early after the indignant exchange between him and His Highness Roderick. While thinking about what means he would use to get close to the beautiful maids and female knights, he was struck with a sudden torpor and lost consciousness.

The [Hero] was blissfully unaware that their magic power had been forcefully stolen. and indeed when Alfio woke up in the forest by the lakeside, Roderick and his escorts were preparing to head to the place where the castle previously stood.

{The ancient castle has disappeared.....?}

Although to be precise it wasn't gone, rather, about half remained, but it was clearly no longer the castle from Alfio's memory. Not to mention, in the sky above, there was a [Golden Storm] fighting a [Black Tempest] and the beautiful forest around the castle had been painted an inky black.

The situation was clearly not good.

Looking at that place which gave off a malicious presence from even where they were, Alfio thought that he would be crazy to even go, but because of Antique, Cheria, and Athena, who didn't for a moment doubt that he was a true Hero, he reluctantly decided to head to the old castle.

Even if his disposition made him be ignored by the Royal Family of Shiguresu, Alfio wasn't an incapable fellow.

Other than reverse engineering the body reinforcement magic that Daemons and Demons naturally used, he had the [Quick Casting Magic] of the high speed and protective types, a wonderful talent for magic.

Applying the high speed magic to his companions, Alfio was able to reach the location before Roderick by taking a back route.

Alfio's party saw a terrible sight there.

A [Demon Beast] that one could tell at a glance was on the level of a [Natural Disaster], and of all things, that beautiful princess... Yurushia was battling that terrifying [Demon Beast] with her attendants.

Because he put his priority on keeping a safe distance, he couldn't make out the details, but Yurushia was flying in the air on golden wings, throwing a golden spear made of magic, and throwing the [Demon Beast] to the ground.

But that wasn't the problem.

Certainly, the magic that Yurushia used, gave off a mighty feeling of [Holiness], and Antique, who was also named a [Saint], was shocked in the sheer difference in power, though that wasn't the problem.

The problem was the attendants of that [Saint].

Fighting with that Saint were figures that looked [Irregular] from a distance, and of them, one of them was the [Daemon] that Alfio's party had fought before.

"Wh-, what the heck does this mean!?"

".....I don't know, but is the princess cavorting with the Demons?"

"D-don't be stupid, Anti, that child is the [Princess] of the Holy Kingdom and Athena's younger sister! Surely, she must have been deceived by the Demons."

Alfio was in a state of confusion. Athena, who had remained silent thus far, began to laugh.

"Fufu... As expected, that child... Yurushia truly is a wicked existence."

"Si-Sister-sama...?"

Ophelia broke into a cold sweat at the sight of her sister smiling arrogantly.

“No, well... isn’t she our sister, more or less...”

“Ophelia!”

“W-wait, Athy. Such a beautiful girl... No, that child is fighting against that monster.”

“First of all, it’s strange. It’s impossible for Yurushia to have the ability to take on such a [Monster]. The proof is the fact that she’s bragging.”

As Alfio looked in the direction that Athena was pointing to when she answered him, Roderick arrived.

“Roderick-sama has just arrived with perfect timing. As I expected, that girl collaborated with the Daemon King and summoned that monster to try to deceive Roderick-sama!”

“I-Is that so.....”

Although he didn’t understand the theory, he couldn’t come up with an immediate rebuttal since that’s what Yurushia’s own elder sister said, but Alfio was convinced that there was something that Athena was keeping from them.

Although to Alfio, all measures of social class held no measure to [Pretty girls], it was easier to capture a disgraced princess than a proper one as he remembered on the [Thin Books] that he had read in his previous life. (TLN: he’s talking about H doujins.)

“O-okay..... We should withdraw for the time being.”

“Why!? We should reveal Yurushia’s evil plot to His Highness,”

“It’s useless. If His Highness doesn’t actually believe your story, wouldn’t you be going against everyone over there? Let’s aim for her when she’s alone.”

“...I see. Roderick-sama might have been brainwashed.”

Alfio’s persuasive words brought Athena to understand that possibility and she nodded, gritting her teeth.

By no means would he say that he was afraid of the Demon Beast, as Alfio held his chest in relief.

“But where will we be withdrawing to?”

“First of all, let’s get out of this country...”

Alfio smiled superficially to Cheria who seemed uneasy while hugging her shoulder.

Up until now, he’d done as Callisto requested and saved up a small amount of money.

Alfio’s wish wasn’t to become a king or save the world, but to live happily forever after with his [Brides].

To fight for the sake of getting a bride was alright, but other than that, he didn’t intend to risk his life. So he was thinking of spending time at his parents’ in Shiguresu until the commotion died down.

“I see! Then, we will prepare to go to the Daemons’ territory.”

“.....eh?”

Antique’s determined words made Alfio leak out a voice reflexively.

“That’s right, Ally. While whittling down the strength of the Daemons, we can gather evidence that that child is connected to the Daemons and get training at the same time!”

“As expected of Al-sama! To have thought through this so deeply, we sisters have renewed our respect for you again.”

“Al-sama, how wonderful... when will we depart?”

Cheria, Athena and Ophelia, all nodded in tandem with Antique’s words, staring at Alfio with dreamy eyes.

“..... L-let’s set off!”

” ” ” “Yes!” ” ” ”

He could no longer escape. Alfio was asking himself how it came to this, but for the sake of appearances in front of the girls, he decided to head to the Daemon Territory.

“.....”

Among them, Athena smiled at the thought of finally causing Yurushia to have a tearful face... she was hit by a slight sense that she was making a major [mistake], but forcibly pushed it to the bottom of her heart.

* * *

"....."

As 【He】 left after throwing down this enormous parting shot, everyone present was staring at me in a tense silence instead of delighting in their victory.

What do I do...

That guy... when he says things like *that*, it makes it sound as if I'm acquainted with Demons.

Although it can't be helped because it's true, when I looked pointedly at my attendants for help with deceiving them, they were all pretending to not know me like they were a hundred metres away.

..... You guys, I'll seriously remember this.

"...It can't be, Duke Kapell had summoned forth such a frightening Demon..."

I intend to pass the buck with a sorrowful look.

It's not a problem because it's mostly fact..... The other half is my fault, though.

".....What did Duke Kapell do?"

It worried them, too. Rick rode in on my story.

"The Demon appeared..... as before I could counteract the poison that had been given to us, all of the people were sacrificed....."

"I see..... Although, it would have been good if we could have caught the perpetrator....."

"Still, given that situation..."

I don't think that anything that had gotten embroiled in the battle between 【Him】 and I would still be alive. In order to change the flow of the conversation, I really need to find some evidence that Duke Kapell is to blame.

“It’s no problem.”

Turning around to face the voice, I saw Noa walking up to us, holding a ragged human who was laughing a little.

“This person is...?”

“Yes, it’s Archbishop Callisto. Fortunately, he was thrown off by the blast of wind, and I found him lying around in the forest.”

So my attendants were looking for witnesses...

But with a witness, and no other evidence, could he have managed to see it when I turned into a Demon? As I mulled over that thought, Fannie, who was good with mental manipulation secretly signed ‘Okay’ to me with her hands, and I felt relieved.

“That’s not how it was!”

Suddenly, Noel yelled out loudly.

Oh this is bad..... While holding himself like he couldn’t be deceived, Rick placed his hand on Noel’s shoulder and spoke to him.

“Noel... You understand that the person who is taking this the hardest is Yurushia...”

“That is..... I see, Lucy is quite pitiful...”

.....eh?

“That’s right, Princess-sama is being targeted by such a terrifying Demon Beast.”

“Perhaps it was afraid of Yurushia-sama’s power... Such a Demonic aura must have wanted Yurushia-sama as a [Sacrifice].”

Springing off Noel’s words, the guardian knights and Holy Knights all comforted me.

In short, they seemed to think that what **【He】** said was him asking for me to sacrifice myself to him as a Saint, and they thought that I was nervous and afraid.

Their trust in me is so high that my Demon heart feels a little pained.

After everything settled down, and it seems that the battle was over, Vio and the girls were escorted to us by Bear-san and the mercenary company.

“Princess Yuru-sama, are you alright?”

“I’m terribly sorry! I was unable to serve you when I was needed the most...”

Bear-san, who looks to be an alcoholic, seems to have drunk wine with a lot of sleeping medicine in it, so it took time for Vio to detoxify his system.

Since we couldn’t stay here, we returned to the town before it got dark.

“By the way, Princess Yuru-sama. ... Why have your clothes and shoes suddenly changed...?”

While everyone was preparing to leave, Vio’s eyes flashed at the sight of the black and silver dress that she was seeing for the first time.

“Although it definitely looks like an upper-class good...”

“I was also concerned about that. Weren’t you wearing a different dress when you went for the meal?”

Uu... They’re sharp. Rick, who heard it, commented and questioned me from the side, while Noel, who finally saw it, gave me a strange look.

“Lucia’s dress..... could it be a magical item?”

Magical items exist in the world.

Although it’s common in Fantasy, there aren’t “Enchantments” that have sustained magical effects applied on them, but rather [Magic Tools] which have magic formations carved on them that activate when magic power is poured into them.

Certainly there are people who make their living off of researching magic formations, but a complex magic like the one used for my dress has never been seen before.

Although there are magic swords, those were usually magic formations carved into the blade, creating a rechargeable type of magic item that would store magic power.

To tell the truth about this dress, it has 【Magic Barrier】 , 【Automatic

Regeneration], and 【Shapeshift】magic applied on it, because it's an artifact-class dress made by multiple Greater Demons (Archdemons) Now, whatever should I do...? When I turned my gaze towards my attendants this time, Tina came out in front of me.

"Excuse me for my rudeness. This dress was made for Yurushia-sama with magic, a cloth with magic woven into it meant for the exclusive use of the [Saint]."

"Wow... was there such a thing? Which laboratory made it? Can they make other things?"

As Rick asked questions, impressed, Tina straight-up answered him with absolute nonsense while wearing a straight face.

"The four of us were the ones who made this, but Yurushia-sama's Holy magic was indispensable for weaving the magic formations into the cloth, and since it's still in the research stage, it takes an immense amount of magic power. The best we could do is to make this one piece. To make multiple copies of this in a short period would put an immense burden on Yurushia-sama, and it's possible that it could hurt her health..."

"No, I understand... what a pity."

"Then, were those [Holy Swords] also made by Lucy? They both look vibrant, though, why is the dress *black*...?"

As Noel casually spoke, Tina's speech froze for a moment.

Noel's asking why the equipment that's made for a saint can be any colour that is [Black]? Well, at least that's what I think he wanted to say. Yes, I think that too.

Even Tina hasn't seemed to have thought of an appropriate reply, but for some reason Tina put on an evil smile on her face and puffed her (nonexistent) chest out.

"Yurushia-sama's white skin and golden hair that greatly accentuates [Black]. Of course, her *undergarments* are also black and made of the same material."

At that one line, Rick and Noel's faces reddened and they turned away from

me. My own face flushed too and I slammed Tina's head forcefully into the ground.

* * *

Several months have passed since that incident.

The attendant that unveiled the colour of the underwear being worn by her mistress in front of a man was being reprimanded by her mistress all night on the bed..... eh? You wanted to be there?

When we returned to the royal capital, the leader that had already contacted the royal castle was hurriedly going about putting things in order.

Callisto, who I healed a little, confessed fluently and as a result the house of Duke Kapell was ruined..... or so it would have been. As expected, to crush two ducal houses in only a few years, since they thought that it would make the country look weak and become the target for mockery, Zest-san, the younger brother of the family that had Grandfather-sama's trust, became the new Duke Kapell.

It's a member of the [Society for Turning Light into Darkness], a representative of the Carpe Merchant Guild in the royal capital, and the manager of my secret funds.

..... Somehow when I explain it the image becomes worse.

There's another problem too, which regards me.

The [Demon Beast] that had blown an entire castle away had been repulsed once, but because the [Demon Beast] had tried to persuade me to become a [Sacrifice] to him, every ducal territory around the Royal Capital decided to implement a harsh surveillance system against foreign enemies.

Although it wouldn't be a problem for me if I moved to a mansion in a remote area, since nobody cared about my opinion it couldn't be helped, so I had to work.

I went around the five ducal territories, setting up huge 【Holy Barriers】, and casting 【Feasts of Blessings】 to soothe the anxieties of the people..... when I said that I've been doing so for half a year and not even once did a single

【Demon Beast】show up, I was able to regain my peaceful days.

I am now taking classes in school normally again.

Speaking of what's changed, Bree-chan and the escort knights were lined up outside in the hallway, waiting for me.

..... and the distance between my classmates and I got widened again. Well, it's too late.....

That reminded me of a strange rumour.

[The 【Princess】of the Holy Kingdom, violently struggled against becoming the 【Bride】of the Demon Beast].....

Although it was a rumour, it was surprisingly closer to the truth than the official report.

* * *

Several more months have passed since then, and I will be 10 years old soon.

My height is still growing, but my joints don't hurt as much as before. My current size is... about half a head smaller than that of an average child of the same age?

More importantly, I'm more concerned with my body weight than with my height now.....

Although on the surface I could say that it's become peaceful, in reality the problem hasn't been solved.

I wonder what 【He】is doing right now?

Since I had that sort of feeling, I wonder if there will be a birthday party this year?Thinking about it, having one seems to be normal.

But things are different now. They seem to want to do some sort of ceremony in the Kostoru cathedral of the Kingdom before the party.

"Lucy..."

It's the day of my birthday. I am wearing that black dress that I said was a specialised equipment for a Saint, but since it was too black and I had felt like it had an overwhelming feeling, I wore a luxurious, pure white surcoat over it.

While waiting in a room in the cathedral, I suddenly heard the voice of my cute puppy after a long time.

“Noel~”

When I waved my hand lightly at him, Noel crawled over like a puppy and grasped my hand.Just like that Rick, you touch a girl way too familiarly.

“Noel, you look great.”

“...Uhn, it’s flashy..... isn’t it?”

It seems that Noel hasn’t changed either, since he’s grown as well, the height difference hasn’t changed. What he’s wearing this time is a beautifully polished silver shoulder pauldron, breastplate, and gauntlets along with other small armour pieces. The other parts of the armour are made of leather, so I wonder if it’s supposed to be heavy or light armour?

On top of all that he was wearing a navy blue surcoat that greatly resembled mine, and hanging on his waist was the Golden Magic Blade I’d given him.

All this luxurious-looking equipment made Noel feel uneasy.

“It’s alright. You look seriously cool, Noel.”

“Th-thanks... Lucy.”

Noel’s bashful smile is really cute.

“How about me, then?”

“Eh? ... Rick?”

Throwing open the door, Rick walked in..... eh?

“That appearance...”

Rick’s appearance was as luxurious as Noel’s, but since his had more metal armor plates than Noel, it had a more ‘knight-ish’ feeling.

“Tall...”

“.....What’s that?”

At my answer, Rick poked my forehead with an amused face, and after seeing Noel holding my left hand, he took my right hand and began to pull me along

with him.

“Let’s go, Yurushia.”

“But, where!?”

While I was wondering if I would be getting dragged along again, Noel walked next to me holding my left hand, and I was pulled together by the two of them through the corridor.

.....eh? you’re going to show the public this scene?

“Roderick-la-von-Verusenia. Thou, for your great achievements and protection of the people from the evil Demon Beast, I confer upon you the title of [Paladin].”

“Yes sir”

In the Kostoru church, the words of Pope Theophilus echoed throughout the cathedral and a roar of approval rose from the upper nobles and their knights.

“Noel Barnabas. Thou, for the achievement of driving off the evil Demon Beast, I confer upon you the title of the [Hero of the Holy Kingdom].”

“Hai”

As that was said..... there was an especially loud roar from the knights in particular.

“Yurushia-la-Verusenia. Thou, for protecting our warriors from the evil Demon Beast, and for your achievements in easing the people’s anxiety, I confer upon you the title [Saint of the Holy Kingdom].”

“...Yes”

At that moment, there was a resoundingly loud cheer, and the Paladin-sama and Hero-sama next to me pulled up the listless me.

But, I’m a Demon.....

Things like, the threat of the Demon Beast, the unease of the citizens, and the distrust of the nobility, and sweeping away other things, a [Title] was conferred upon us, who repelled the Demon Beast, and it seems that this will spread far and wide both in and out of the country.

“.....”

Rick and Noel were waving to the audience with slightly nervous expressions, while I wasn't able to wave my hand at all, since the two of them were restraining my arms on both sides. For the time being all I could do was smile as hard as I could.

I'll say it again.

I..... am a Demon, you know?

A few days later..... in the name of the [Daemon King Hebrad], a declaration of war from the Daemons' territory was issued to the human nations.

Author's Notes:

Thank you very much for reading.

This concludes [Book 3: The Beast's Bride].

I wanted to reveal the bride bit earlier, but it just didn't work.

[Book 4: The Devil Princess] is the final book of part 1, so I want to take my time to write it as I like.

Well, I look forward to your impressions.

Chapter 18: Setting: 『Yurushia's Secret』 ,

Bonus Chapter

The Secret of Yurushia-chan (At the end of the third book) Name: Demon name Yurushia

Human Name: Yurushia-La-Verusenia Species: Demon Beast 【Golden Beast】

Age: Human Age 10

Mental Age: Teenager

Human mode appearance:

Height 152 cm Weight ????

Fair skin. Hair is shiny and golden, rather than blonde, and is straight, extending to below the chest level. Past a certain point, the hair ends curl upwards and become rounded.

Her eyes are pinkish with a slight tinge of gold, and with slightly droopy eyes.

Of the things that make up a living being: blood vessels, skeletal structure, muscles, living habits, fatigue, health condition, temperature, humidity, all do not show on her, a living being without 【Flaws】.

She has few pores and sweat glands, causing her to be lacking a human air.

Demon Beast (cat) mode appearance: Length: approximately 60 cm. A Golden cat that resembles a Russian Blue.

Coming out of her golden fur is a pair of golden bat wings, a single wing being more than 5 metres long.

Ruby eyed, with crimson red crystalline fangs and teeth.

Status (parenthesis denote ability values when using demonic power).

Supplement: the average human being has around 10. A Hero is around 100 ~ 300.

Endurance : 5 (3600)

Physical Strength : 3 (312)

Defense : 2 (265)

Speed : 7 (24000)

Magic : 80000 (530,000)

Skills:

Note: Level 1 is a beginner, level 5 a master, and level 10 is god-tier.

Awkward 【Level 3】 (Carried over from Previous Life) Laid Back 【Level 5】
(Carried over from Previous life) Intimidate 【Level 7】

Holy Magic 【Level 8】

Summoning Magic 【Level 6】

Spiritual Magic 【Level 5】

Nobility 【Level 3】

Mental Resistance 【Mental Attacks Nullified】

Abnormal Status Resistance 【Level 6】 (Only in Demon Form) Love Resistance
【Level 2】 (Junior High school student average) (Carried over from past life)

Villainous Lady 【Level 1】

Automatic Effect 【Level 1】

Remarks:

【Laid Back】

When in the conscious range of the person with the skill, atmosphere becomes 『laid-back』.

【Automatic Effect (passive skill)】

The appearance of the golden fur always seems fluffy and shiny. 【Stealth – 1】

Titles:

【Demon God (The Devil)】 【Creator of Demons】 【Holy Mother of the Demon World】 【Gourmand】 【Otherworld Transmigrator】

【Daughter of a Ducal House】 【Princess of the Holy Kingdom】 【Saint of the

Holy Kingdom】(NEW)

Remarks:

The title of 【Demon Beast (small)】 acquired in the Demon World, has been combined with 【Demon God (The Devil)】 through the acquisition of a human body.

The title of 【Saint of the People】 has been integrated into 【Saint of the Holy Kingdom】.

Evaluation:

Although the elaborate 【Human form】 is cold like a doll, causing humans to feel an instinctive 【Fear】 , thanks to the human-ness granted by her plebeian thinking, its effect has been neutralised subtly.

Because in the【World】 of her mind she's automatically rebutting other people, she seems taciturn, so to people around her she looks like a 【Sheltered Princess】.

The longer one associates with Yurushia the higher the level of 【Mental Resistance】 will rise.

Author's Notes:

I wanted to try writing a status page once, since it's fashionable.....

App's Notes: FINALLY, I can google what sort of cat she it!

Piroton's Notes:

None this time

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